



**ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL
COUNCIL**

Distr.
LIMITED
E/ESCWA/SDPD/2010/IG.1/6
10 January 2011
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: ARABIC

Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA)

REPORT

EIGHTH SESSION OF THE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY BEIRUT, 13-14 DECEMBER 2010

Summary

The Committee on Energy of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) held its eighth session at United Nations House in Beirut on 13 and 14 December 2010.

The session agenda included the following priority topics: follow-up on the implementation of recommendations made by the Committee on Energy at its seventh session, progress achieved in the implementation of energy-related activities under the ESCWA programme of work since the seventh session of the Committee on Energy, the project on Disseminating Renewable Energy Services to Rural Villages, particularly the ESCWA Pilot Photovoltaic Electrification Project in Ka'awa Village, Yemen, and the proposed programme of work for the biennium 2012-2013 in the field of energy. Participants also discussed energy policies and measures for promoting climate change mitigation in ESCWA member countries. General discussion followed on programmes and achievements of member countries in this field. The Committee made a number of recommendations related to the agenda items.

The Committee on Energy discussed this report at the closing meeting held on 14 December 2010 and adopted it on 28 December 2010 after incorporating the amendments suggested by member countries.

CONTENTS

	<i>Paragraphs</i>	<i>Page</i>
Introduction	1-2	3
<i>Chapter</i>		
I. RECOMMENDATIONS MADE BY THE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AT ITS EIGHTH SESSION	3-5	3
A. Recommendations addressed to ESCWA.....	4	3
B. Recommendations addressed to member countries.....	5	4
II. TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION	6-44	5
A. Follow-up on the implementation of recommendations made by the Committee on Energy at its seventh session	6-7	5
B. Follow-up on the implementation of energy-related activities under the ESCWA programme of work.....	8-9	5
C. Project on Disseminating Renewable Energy Services to Rural Villages in ESCWA Member Countries.....	10-12	5
D. General perspective on climate change mitigation in the field of energy	13-15	6
E. Producing electricity from renewable energy	16-19	6
F. Energy in transport.....	20-21	7
G. Producing energy from waste.....	22-24	7
H. Regional and international cooperation and available opportunities	25	7
I. General discussion on programmes and achievements of member countries in the field of energy and climate change mitigation	26-37	8
J. Proposed programme of work for the biennium 2012-2013 in the field of energy.....	38-42	9
K. Date and venue of the ninth session of the Committee on Energy.....	43	10
L. Other matters	44	10
III. ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY ON ITS EIGHTH SESSION	45-46	10
IV. ORGANIZATION OF THE SESSION	47-55	11
A. Date and venue	47	11
B. Opening	48-50	11
C. Participants	51	12
D. Election of officers	52	12
E. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work	53-54	12
F. Documents.....	55	13
ANNEXES		
I. List of participants.....		14
II. List of documents		16

Introduction

1. The Committee on Energy held its eighth session on 13 and 14 December 2010, pursuant to resolution 204 (XVIII) of 25 May 1995 on the establishment of a Committee on Energy at the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA), which was adopted by the United Nations Economic and Social Council in its resolution 1995/25 of 24 July 1995, and in line with recommendations concerning the frequency of Committee sessions made by the Committee on Energy at its seventh session, which was held in Beirut on 5 and 6 February 2009, which were approved at the twenty-sixth ministerial session of ESCWA, held in Beirut from 17 to 29 May 2010.

2. This report includes the most important recommendations made by the Committee on Energy at its eighth session. The Committee adopted this report at its closing meeting on 28 December 2010, after taking into consideration the amendments proposed by member countries.

I. RECOMMENDATIONS MADE BY THE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AT ITS EIGHTH SESSION

3. Set out below are the recommendations made by the Committee on Energy at the conclusion of its eighth session, which are to be implemented by ESCWA and/or ESCWA member countries.

A. RECOMMENDATIONS ADDRESSED TO ESCWA

4. The Committee on Energy addressed the following recommendations to ESCWA:

(a) To support cooperation activities with the League of Arab States and United Nations organizations as well as regional organizations and centres operating in the field of energy, in order to improve regional cooperation in the areas of energy efficiency and renewable energy, enhance the implementation of the ten-year framework of programmes on sustainable consumption and production and take necessary action to achieve integration in electric and gas networks. Such cooperation would lead to better performance in the energy sector, advance its economic aspect and develop its contribution in mitigating the effect of climate change on the countries of the region;

(b) To prepare a draft regulatory framework based on existing legislation and including proposed implementation mechanisms. Such a framework would aim at developing systems of energy efficiency and renewable energy as well as their subsequent applications, reducing their cost, achieving their deployment and thus contributing in strengthening the economies of the countries of the region;

(c) To continue to prepare and implement activities on awareness-raising and capacity-building, as well as to execute pilot projects in different areas of energy for sustainable development. Focus will be on achieving green economy standards, including supporting the establishment of small and medium-sized businesses in relevant fields, particularly companies operating in the field of energy services, and on enabling them to achieve productivity and competitiveness;

(d) To provide technical support, upon request, to member countries in related fields regarding the preparation of project proposals, taking necessary measures commensurate with the availability of funds, international mechanisms and those developed in the context of climate change negotiations. Such measures include the transfer of technologies and establishment of common national industries for manufacturing renewable energy and energy-efficiency equipment, in coordination with concerned regional and international organizations;

(e) To continue to prepare analytical studies and technical publications on issues related to energy for sustainable development. To organize expert group meetings and workshops in this field, taking into account the classification of different types of systems;

(f) To include field and case studies dealing with energy issues for sustainable development in member countries in documents submitted to the Committee. While such studies are prepared by delegates of member countries, ESCWA defines clear and appropriate mechanisms to follow up activities and evaluate impact on all levels. The results of evaluations are to be presented to the Committee within the document on the follow-up of achievements;

(g) To strengthen cooperation with member countries to coordinate the exchange of pilot experiences and expertise, organize field visits to enhance the dissemination of technologies and energy systems for sustainable development and present possible expertise to deal with funding mechanisms, in particular, the clean development mechanism;

(h) To carry out an assessment of the results of the ESCWA Pilot Photovoltaic Electrification Project in Ka'awa in the Yemeni countryside based on the success of cooperation efforts between ESCWA and the Ministry of Electricity in Yemen, highlighting its social and economic effects, and an objective assessment of the potential implementation of similar projects in the countries of the region. The assessment would contain an estimation of the demand for used equipment and the possibility of setting up industries to provide such equipment within each country;

(i) To hold a follow-up meeting for the Committee on Energy in the year following that of the regular biennial meeting of the Committee, in order to follow up the implementation of recommendations and involve countries in the implementation phase. Member countries are to host the follow-up meeting in rotation, unless it is held in the host country;

(j) To adopt the general orientation and activities in the proposed ESCWA programme of work for the 2012-2013 biennium in the field of energy, in line with development needs in member countries and in a way compatible with outcomes of relevant international conferences in the field of energy for sustainable development.

B. RECOMMENDATIONS ADDRESSED TO MEMBER COUNTRIES

5. The Committee on Energy addressed the following recommendations to member countries:

(a) To develop and adopt national strategies to encourage sustainable patterns of energy production and consumption which would contribute to the development of applications for energy efficiency and renewable energy in line with the development requirements of each country in confronting the climate change phenomenon. To adopt and ensure the enforcement of relevant legislation and laws;

(b) To periodically notify ESCWA of programmes, policies and measures taken by member countries in energy fields, as well as all associated statistical data in order to include them in ESCWA studies. To provide ESCWA with the proposals of member countries on the strategies used to promote energy efficiency and renewable energy to be presented within the activities of the Interregional Energy Efficiency project in the 21st century (GEE21);

(c) To prepare energy balances on both national and regional levels, or to update available balances and build the necessary capacity to follow up work in view of its importance in energy management, planning and strategy definition. Member countries are to provide ESCWA with a copy of these balances;

(d) To prepare documents on national experiences to be presented at the meeting of the Committee on Energy and to inform ESCWA member countries of the activities, policies and procedures adopted in this field in each country.

II. TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION

A. FOLLOW-UP ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF RECOMMENDATIONS MADE BY THE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AT ITS SEVENTH SESSION (Item 4 (a) of the agenda)

6. Under this agenda item, the Committee on Energy was presented with document E/ESCWA/SDPD/2010/IG.1/3(Part I). The document sets out activities planned and implemented in the field of energy pursuant to recommendations of the seventh session (Beirut, 5-6 February 2009). The secretariat invited member country delegates to take note of what has been implemented and to make suggestions and recommendations in that regard.

7. The delegate of Jordan stressed the need to assess the impact of implemented activities. The United Arab Emirates delegate called for the organization of a follow-up meeting on the sidelines of the biennial meetings of the Committee. The ESCWA secretariat noted the possibility of including those proposals within recommendations to be made by the Committee at its current session. On the other hand, the United Arab Emirates delegate stressed the importance of direct contact between ESCWA and members of the Committee without having to go through intermediaries in order to avoid delays. The delegate from Yemen commended the electrification project of the village of Ka'awa in Yemen, pointing out its advantages and the numerous requests received by the Government from different Yemeni villages calling for the implementation of similar projects in view of its success. In response to a query made by the delegate of the Sudan regarding the primary cost of renewable energy projects, the secretariat clarified that a relevant document will be presented to the conferees during the current session. The secretariat welcomed, once again, any potential cooperation with national and regional organizations for the benefit of member countries.

B. FOLLOW-UP ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF ENERGY-RELATED ACTIVITIES UNDER THE ESCWA PROGRAMME OF WORK (Item 4 (b) of the agenda)

8. The committee reviewed, in document E/ESCWA/SDPD/2010/IG.1/3(Part II), the progress achieved in implementing energy-related activities under the ESCWA programme of work since its seventh session. The secretariat invited member country delegates to take note of what has been implemented and to make suggestions and recommendations in that regard.

9. In response to an inquiry raised by the delegate of Egypt on the feasibility of bilateral cooperation that would assist in promoting regional cooperation, the secretariat confirmed its support to all forms of bilateral and multilateral cooperation, as indicated in documents presented at the current session.

C. PROJECT ON DISSEMINATING RENEWABLE ENERGY SERVICES TO RURAL VILLAGES IN ESCWA MEMBER COUNTRIES (Item 4 (c) of the agenda)

10. Under this item, the Committee reviewed, in document E/ESCWA/SDPD/2010/IG.1/3(Part III), the progress achieved in implementing the Project on Disseminating Renewable Energy Services to Rural Villages in ESCWA member countries (the ESCWA Pilot Photovoltaic Electrification Project in Ka'awa Village in Yemen).

11. In response to an inquiry made by the delegate of Palestine, the secretariat clarified the possibility of expanding the project implementation adopted in Yemeni houses of Ka'awa village. The delegate of Qatar commended this achievement, called for its replication in other places and inquired about operation and maintenance costs. The Yemeni delegate explained that a committee had been formed to follow up the project, that citizens bore a symbolic percentage of costs to ensure its continuity and that the Yemeni Government covered all remaining costs. He added that this project enhanced rural life and that electricity

would be supplied to 220 houses through funding from the Global Environment Facility. The Sudanese delegate asked whether ESCWA could undertake such a major project for 20 to 25 years. The secretariat clarified that the Ka'awa project is typical and pilot, that efforts are being exerted to be in line with the latest and best technology and that other projects would be launched but without a 20-year plan. The delegate from Palestine inquired about a feasibility study or a study on alternatives to the project. The secretariat explained that the cost of kilowatt hour production was high, but the choice was mostly driven by developmental, environmental and awareness-raising concerns. The Iraqi delegate stressed the importance of developing a policy for manufacturing equipment and supplies locally. The delegate from Yemen explained the benefits of this type of project in detail and its follow-up at the institutional level, pointing to the existence of promising areas in Yemen having operational potential for wind energy. The delegate of Jordan considered the feasibility of adopting units for the desalination of sea water by solar energy.

12. Ms. Anhar Hegazi indicated that the Ka'awa project is part of an integrated project. She stressed the importance of including an effective assessment of its impact on social and economic development and the establishment of small and medium-sized businesses in this field.

D. GENERAL PERSPECTIVE ON CLIMATE CHANGE MITIGATION IN THE FIELD OF ENERGY (Item 5 (a) of the agenda)

13. Document E/ESCWA/SDPD/2010/IG.1/4(Part I) reviewed the adverse impacts of climate change. It addressed the correlation between climate change and emissions, the need to work towards limiting the adverse impact of climate change on ESCWA member countries and their economic and social programmes and defining possible means for emission reduction, including: optimizing energy consumption, improving energy efficiency and reducing the reliance on energy sources from combustion processes by using available renewable energy sources and nuclear energy for the production of electricity and water desalination. If fossil fuel is used, priority should be given to cleaner fuel and to carbon dioxide capture and storage techniques.

14. The delegate of Jordan indicated that the document referred to policies and measures aimed at mitigating climate change, whereas the countries of the region are not responsible for the emissions and stressed the importance of saving energy. The secretariat explained that the benefits derived from the required measures include reinforcing power supply, economic savings and contributing to the mitigation of climate change impact.

15. The United Arab Emirates delegate pointed that all Arab countries seek to accommodate renewable energy applications such as Masdar Initiative. He stressed the need to avoid any specific commitments since international forums are currently discussing this topic. He noted that the countries of the region have every right to obtain assistance in adapting to and mitigating the impact of climate change.

E. PRODUCING ELECTRICITY FROM RENEWABLE ENERGY (Item 5 (b) of the agenda)

16. Document E/ESCWA/SDPD/2010/IG.1/4(Part II) reviewed the possibilities of producing electricity from renewable energy, precisely solar and wind energy, with a focus on available means and technologies, international trends in that regard, future cost expectations, and challenges hindering the adoption of those technologies. The document also tackled regional and international cooperation in the field and the related situation in ESCWA member countries.

17. The delegate of Palestine commented that the study did not mention the renewable energy project in his country. The secretariat therefore asked the participants to provide in writing any additional information on renewable energy projects in their respective countries, for inclusion in subsequent reports. The delegate of Palestine clarified that the space needed for the implementation of solar and wind energy for electricity-generating projects constitutes a major obstacle, particularly in Palestine in view of the high population density.

18. The delegate of the Syrian Arab Republic encouraged participants to make proposals on the strategy needed for electricity generation from renewable energy, to be presented within GEE21. The delegate of Oman requested that renewable energy applications be classified in different commercial categories.

19. The delegate of the Sudan said that his country suffers from deforestation as a result of using wood as fuel (63 per cent of the total energy consumption), stressing the importance of securing fossil fuel to avoid potential desertification problems in the long term.

F. ENERGY IN TRANSPORT (Item 5 (c) of the agenda)

20. Document E/ESCWA/SDPD/2010/IG.1/4(Part III) reviewed the current situation of the transport sector in ESCWA member countries, the arrangements and options for reducing emissions and progress achieved in that regard. It also defined challenges and work priority areas.

21. The delegate from the Sudan pointed to the necessity of reducing the cost of energy, stemming from dependency on oil, in the transport sector in his country. The secretariat explained the economic and environmental benefits stemming from such a measure, whereas the Egyptian envoy pointed in this context to the need to raise public awareness of the importance of these benefits. The Jordanian delegate mentioned that both short and long term measures are included in the document and that most of the oil refineries in the region are old and in need of modernization. Ms. Anhar Hegazi emphasized the preliminary importance of the transport sector for all areas of development and pointed to improved performance and productivity stemming from efforts this sector.

G. PRODUCING ENERGY FROM WASTE (Item 5 (d) of the agenda)

22. Document E/ESCWA/SDPD/2010/IG.1/4(Part IV) reviews the possibilities of including thermal and/or electric power production in treatment procedures of liquid (sanitation water) and solid waste from plant and animal residues of the consuming society, so as to reduce emissions and mitigate climate change. The document presented noteworthy experiences and projects and reviewed policies, challenges and obstacles needed to be overcome in order to stimulate investment in that sector.

23. The delegate of the Sudan pointed to waste-related difficulties faced by his country and the cost of implementing tests. He described the production of fuel from remnants of the sugar industry, mixed with petroleum hydrocarbons (gasoline) such as automobile fuel, yet noting the importance of checking the suitability of engines.

24. Ms. Anhar Hegazi pointed to the availability of expertise in the region and the necessity to take the properties of waste in each country into account, noting the reduction in its thermal efficiency due to high levels of humidity.

H. REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION AND AVAILABLE OPPORTUNITIES (Item 5 (e) of the agenda)

25. Document E/ESCWA/SDPD/2010/IG.1/4(Part V) discussed available areas of regional and international cooperation for reducing emissions and mitigating climate change, particularly with regard to technology transfer and development, exchange of technical expertise among countries, capacity-building, financing mechanisms, and the possibilities for ESCWA member countries to benefit from integration conventions in this regard, including previous conventions and protocols and those in preparation, especially for the period beyond the Kyoto protocol to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. In the discussion, participants agreed on the importance of including palm trees within the “forest” category in negotiations on climate change.

I. GENERAL DISCUSSION ON PROGRAMMES AND ACHIEVEMENTS OF MEMBER COUNTRIES
IN THE FIELD OF ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE MITIGATION
(Item 5 (f) of the agenda)

26. Participants made optimal use of the exchange of opinions, experiences and cooperation possibilities in the field of energy with a view to promoting climate change mitigation. In the letter of invitation to participate in the meetings of the eighth session of the Committee on Energy, ESCWA requested the delegate from each member country to review the achievements of her/his country in the field of energy for sustainable development, as well as policies and measures to reduce the impact of climate change.

27. Delegates from ESCWA member countries presented the programmes and achievements of their countries in the field of energy, and policies and measures adopted to mitigate the impact of climate change. Participants exchanged views on potential cooperation in this field.

28. The delegate of Jordan spoke about energy supply and increased demand, based on statistical figures. He then reviewed the comprehensive Master Strategy of the Energy Sector in Jordan for the period until 2020, and the included objectives and procedures. He detailed the activities, available capabilities and plans in the field of renewable energy, the renewable energy law promulgated in February 2010 and the promotion of renewable energy and energy efficiency fund for the year 2010, referring to estimated savings in sectors of transport, industry, housing, trade, water pumping and public lighting.

29. The delegate of the Syrian Arab Republic spoke of the need to develop a strategy for energy efficiency and renewable energy. His presentation covered fossil fuel reserves, production and consumption in certain ESCWA member countries, and the high increase of consumption compared with the global average. He then reviewed the main challenges to progress in the field of energy efficiency and the main areas of focus for improving efficiency in the expected strategic priorities in the fields of energy, construction, transport, industry, tourism, services, trade, and government services. He stressed the necessity for developing a strategy for energy efficiency and renewable energy in the Syrian Arab Republic and reviewed the measures taken to develop this strategy in the technical field, projects, capacity-building and legislation. He pointed out that the National Energy Conference organized by the Syrian Arab Republic has come up with important recommendations that can be adopted as the basis of a strategy for energy efficiency and renewable energy in order for its contribution to reach 30 percent of the demand for energy in 2030.

30. The delegate of the Sudan presented an overview that covered population issues, gross domestic product (GDP) of economic sectors, energy balance, sources of renewable energy, energy consuming sectors and the rate of consumption of petroleum derivatives in different sectors in 2009. He referred to efforts made to deploy renewable energy technologies and projects implemented during the past ten years in the field of energy alternatives and the problems encountered in their application. He then reviewed the issue of energy and climate change and explained the strategy of the Sudan for reducing the impact of climate change, particularly in the production of ethanol and the adoption of environmental regulations in the oil industry and the harmonization of energy sector policies with the policies of the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa. He referred, as well, to activities implemented in cooperation with ESCWA and explained the principals and guidelines of the energy programme in the Sudan.

31. The delegate of Iraq made a presentation on the situation of their energy sector, particularly electricity. He talked about the exceptional efforts made to secure electric power through the rehabilitation of existing stations and establishment of new production plants. He also mentioned rationalizing policies to make the best use of electric power through raising awareness and adopting a progressive fee system and modern technologies. The delegate referred to certain legislation in this field and then talked about renewable energy, research activities and projects implemented.

32. The delegate of Palestine presented the energy sector situation in Palestine, starting with the sources of energy, energy resulting from the conversion of gas and oil products, exploration of natural gas reserves, difficulties of marketing this gas, possible options, sources of electric energy whether imported or locally

produced, renewable energy and solar and wind applications. He then reviewed the Palestinian vision for building an integrated national energy system capable of securing sufficient energy from multiple sources to meet the country's needs. He clarified the strategic objectives, policies and achievements that the Palestinian National Authority seeks to achieve between 2011 and 2013.

33. The delegate of Lebanon stressed the importance of energy, the role of the electricity sector and the need to address the potential impact of climate change. He then referred to the plan for reform and development of the electricity sector approved by the Lebanese Council of Ministers on 21 June 2010. The plan noted the possibility of using natural gas for electricity generation and energy conservation projects, especially encouraging the use of light-saving equipment and solar energy, applications of current and possible renewable energy (wind and hydraulic energy) in the future and projects funded by donors in this field. The delegate mentioned proposed mechanisms, policies and the possibility of transferring electric energy from neighbouring countries to address the shortage in Lebanon provided that negative impact on the environment is at a minimum.

34. The delegate of Kuwait presented an overview of his country, with developmental plans until the year 2035. He talked about policies in the field of energy and the environment in terms of expanding crude oil and natural gas reserves, developing domestic refining capacity, use of the latest technologies to generate electricity and produce water, and increasing the production of electric power, while preserving the environment and treating pollution. He gave some examples of projects that reflect these policies.

35. The delegate of Qatar presented an overview of his country until the year 2030 based on a strategy for renewable energy that includes the diversification of energy sources and the achievement of sustainable development. He explained initiatives for the production of electric energy, technology centres, the policy of not burning the "gas flame" on extraction and refinement sites, projects included in the organization for the 2022 World Cup and the establishment of "eco-friendly carbon-free stadiums", using solar energy to produce necessary electricity in these stadiums.

36. The delegate of Egypt made a presentation on the energy sector in his country, their strategy for sustainable development, dealing with climate change and the Egyptian experience of improving energy efficiency. He clarified how to diversify energy sources in statistical figures and explained their details and circumstances. He expanded, reviewing adopted policies and measures, the achieved cumulative savings in fuel and cumulative reductions in carbon dioxide emissions.

37. Mr. Mounir Bahri, Director of the Rational Use of Energy in the National Agency for Energy Conservation in Tunisia, presented their National Plan for energy conservation. He described the evolution of the energy balance over previous years and the distribution of consumption in all sectors, including transport, industry, housing, services and farming. He then referred to the available possibilities for conserving energy in the medium and long term, with regard to renewable energy and energy efficiency. He reviewed, in detail, the programmes and institutional frameworks in Tunisia and the consequent achievements. He focused on the objectives of the presidential program in 2014 entitled "Towards an environment-friendly, energy-saving and innovative economy with high technological content". Mr. Bahri reviewed legal mechanisms, incentives and encouragement, relevant technical aspects, and planned and completed projects in all sectors, supported with statistical figures on achievements and future plans. Stressing the importance of reviewing energy use in all sectors, he presented a detailed description of implemented and ongoing projects.

J. PROPOSED PROGRAMME OF WORK FOR THE BIENNIUM 2012-2013 IN THE FIELD OF ENERGY (Item 6 of the agenda)

38. Document E/ESCWA/SDPD/2010/IG.1/5 reviewed proposed outputs and activities to be undertaken by ESCWA under its programme of work for the biennium 2012-2013 in the field of energy. The programme of work was prepared in line with the revised strategic framework for the biennium 2012-2013 adopted by ESCWA at its twenty-sixth session (Beirut, 17-20 May 2010). The secretariat invited member country

representatives to review the proposed programme of work in the field of energy and provide comments and suggestions.

39. The delegate of Oman asked why the document did not tackle the 2010-2011 biennial programme. The secretariat clarified that the 2009-2010 period, stretching between the seventh and eighth sessions, covers one year from the 2008-2009 biennium and another year from the subsequent 2010-2011 biennium. Therefore, the document on Energy in the framework of the ESCWA programme of work (Item 4(b)) includes details on the 2008-2009 biennial programme (its 2009 phase) and details from the 2010-2011 biennial programme (its 2010 phase).

40. The delegate of the Syrian Arab Republic praised the achievements of ESCWA. He then pointed out that some ESCWA member countries have huge reserves of oil and gas and that cooperation in this field, completion of the Arab electric interconnection and implementation of energy efficiency projects are essential steps toward economic savings and reaching Millennium Goals in countries of the region. He hoped that ESCWA would encourage Governments and decision makers to move in that direction and suggested that the Committee on Energy survey pilot projects in the region.

41. The delegate of Jordan inquired about priorities and the reason for including projects related, for example, to capturing carbon dioxide, its storage and the efficiency of energy in agriculture. The ESCWA secretariat responded that these activities are useful for ESCWA countries because some of them are oil producers whereas others have interests in the agricultural sector. The secretariat highlighted the necessity to diversify activities in order to cover all energy fields in member countries and stated that several studies have been initiated concerning energy efficiency in such sectors as construction, industry, oil, electricity, tourism and others.

42. The delegate of Palestine inquired about opportunities for cooperation between member countries, particularly in renewable energy projects and how to benefit from the experiences of Jordan and Egypt. The secretariat pointed to its programme of technical cooperation and aspirations to intensify such activities, mentioning that training courses organized by member countries previously received assistance from ESCWA, as would any future attempts in this regard.

K. DATE AND VENUE OF THE NINTH SESSION OF THE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY
(Item 7 of the agenda)

43. The ninth session of the Committee on Energy is scheduled to be held in Beirut in December 2012, unless an invitation is extended by another member country to host it.

L. OTHER MATTERS
(Item 8 of the agenda)

44. No other matters were discussed outside the agenda.

III. ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY
ON ITS EIGHTH SESSION
(Item 9 of the agenda)

45. Pursuant to the provisions of Rule 33 of the Terms of Reference and the Rules of Procedure of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, members of the Committee on Energy agreed at the closing meeting held on 14 December 2010, to grant a time period for Committee members to make comments in writing on the draft report of the eighth session, which would be sent to them by e-mail on 17 December 2010. Member countries were to submit their comments to the Energy Section of the ESCWA Division for Sustainable Development and Productivity no later than 26 December 2010. ESCWA would prepare a revised text of the report taking into consideration the observations made by the Committee members. The report would be adopted on the date of 28 December 2010.

46. ESCWA thanked participants for their interest and active participation, enriching discussions and quality presentations during the meetings of the eighth session.

IV. ORGANIZATION OF THE SESSION

A. DATE AND VENUE

47. The eighth session of the ESCWA Committee on Energy was held at United Nations House in Beirut on 13 and 14 December 2010, and consisted of four meetings.

B. OPENING

48. The representative of Kuwait, Ms. Noor Al-Ajeel, made a statement on behalf of Ms. Tamader Khraibet, representative of Kuwait and chair of the seventh session of the Committee on Energy. She pointed to the topics addressed by the Committee at its seventh session held on 5 and 6 February 2009 and to the programme of work of the Committee at its eighth session. She noted that the economies of certain ESCWA countries rely on energy revenues and that cooperation among Arab countries is necessary in the field of energy efficiency. She commended the ESCWA initiative in having an expert from the Tunisian Agency for Energy Conservation to present the Tunisian experience and programmes. She thanked the officers of the seventh session and other members of the Committee on Energy as well as the representatives of member countries for their cooperation, and commended the efforts of ESCWA staff in organizing and preparing for the session.

49. Ms. Rima Khalaf, Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations and Executive Secretary of ESCWA, welcomed participants and thanked His Excellency, the Minister of Energy and Water of Lebanon who was participating in the opening meeting and under whose auspices the session was held. She then pointed out that the Committee on Energy is one of seven specialized intergovernmental committees of ESCWA, covering topics concerning the priorities of member countries. She stressed the important role of the energy sector and the role of oil and gas revenues in the economic and social development of the region. She indicated that although certain ESCWA countries still suffer from a lack of energy services, the region as a whole has access to important natural resources and can make use of renewable energy sources. Electrification has still not reached 50 percent of Yemeni citizens and 70 percent of the Sudanese, while Palestinians suffer a severe shortage in energy supply due to Israeli occupation and the oppressive siege on the Gaza Strip. Ms. Khalaf highlighted the need to improve efficiency of energy production, transmission and consumption in all economic sectors, harmonize efforts and coordinate with Arab regional and international organizations while emphasizing the convergence of the efforts exerted by ESCWA and the League of Arab States. She then talked of the link between energy and current humanitarian concerns including climate change. She explained that in spite of the relatively minor contribution of green house gas emissions from the ESCWA region, it is expected to be one of the areas most vulnerable to adverse effects of climate change on the environment, food, health and social security as well as the insecurity of energy supply. There is, therefore, a need to reduce emissions and pointed in this regard to the role of the private sector and the importance of technology transfer, settlement and development. The Executive Secretary talked about topics to be covered at the Committee on Energy meetings and the importance of issuing practical recommendations.

50. The Minister of Energy and Water in Lebanon, Mr. Gebran Bassil, stressed the importance of energy in general and of renewable energy in particular for the economy. He referred to two main pillars namely the strategic importance of preserving energy security, and renewable energy and technological developments in its different fields. He then presented a document on the energy strategy adopted by the Government of Lebanon, stressing the effectiveness of its constituent policies in reducing the impact of climate change and emissions. He reviewed the Lebanese plan to rely on renewable energy sources which will constitute 12 per cent of primary energy in 2020. He indicated that preliminary results of the Wind Atlas confirm the existence of enormous potential to generate electricity from wind energy, the desire to rely on natural gas and adopt

necessary measures to improve the efficiency of energy, particularly in the field of lighting and solar water heating. He announced preparation for an Energy Conservation Law, which includes the establishment of a specialized institution for follow-up and concluded by stating that the waste of energy resources turns a strong point into a weakness.

C. PARTICIPANTS

51. The session brought together representatives of 14 ESCWA member countries. It was also attended by representatives from the United Nations Environment Programme/Regional Office for West Asia, Regional Office of UNESCO/Cairo, Economic Commission for Europe and experts in the energy field. A list of participants is set forth in annex I to this report.

D. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

52. Rule 18 of the Terms of Reference of ESCWA states that ‘the member countries shall assume the chairmanship of the sessions of the subsidiary bodies of the Committee on a rotating basis, in the Arabic alphabetical order employed by the United Nations.’ Pursuant to that rule, Lebanon assumed the chair of the eighth session of the Committee on Energy, following the turn of Kuwait to chair the seventh session from 5 February 2009 until the day that the eighth session opened on 13 December 2010. To ensure continuity of work and consistency with the principle of rotation, the Committee applied what was decided during the seventh session (paragraph 31 of the report of the Committee on Energy on its seventh session E/ESCWA/SDPD/2009/IG.1/7), in implementing the method adopted by the ESCWA Committee on Transport for electing the Vice-Chair and Rapporteur of following sessions:

(a) The country chairing the previous session will assume one Vice-Chair of the current session;

(b) The country following the current Chair in the Arabic alphabetical order of member countries, assumes the other Vice-Chair;

(c) The country following the Vice-Chair (mentioned in b) in the Arabic alphabetical order of member countries, is named Rapporteur.

Therefore the Officers of the eighth session of the Committee on Energy are as follows:

Chair: Mr. Kamal Fouad Hayek, representative of Lebanon

Vice-Chair: Ms. Noor Al-Ajeel, representative of Kuwait

Vice-Chair: Mr. Mustapha Khamis, representative of Egypt

Rapporteur: Mr. Saleh el Ojlan, represented by Mr. Majed Atteyah, representative of the Embassy of Saudi Arabia in Beirut

E. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND ORGANIZATION OF WORK

53. At its first meeting, the Committee on Energy adopted the agenda for its eighth session as set out in E/ESCWA/SDPD/2010/IG.1/L.1. Set forth below is the form of the agenda that was adopted:

1. Opening of the session.
2. Election of officers.

* The list of ESCWA member countries in Arabic alphabetical order is as follows: Jordan, United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Syrian Arab Republic, the Sudan, Iraq, Oman, Palestine, Qatar, Kuwait, Lebanon, Egypt, Saudi Arabia and Yemen.

3. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.
4. Progress achieved in the field of energy since the seventh session of the Committee on Energy:
 - (a) Follow-up on the implementation of recommendations made by the Committee on Energy at its seventh session;
 - (b) Follow-up on the implementation of energy-related activities under the ESCWA programme of work;
 - (c) Project on Disseminating Renewable Energy Services to Rural Villages in ESCWA Member Countries.
5. Energy policies and measures for promoting climate change mitigation in ESCWA member countries:
 - (a) General perspective on climate change mitigation in the field of energy;
 - (b) Producing electricity from renewable energy;
 - (c) Energy in transport;
 - (d) Producing energy from waste;
 - (e) Regional and international cooperation and available opportunities;
 - (f) General discussion on programmes and achievements of member countries in the field of energy and climate change mitigation.
6. Proposed programme of work for the biennium 2012-2013 in the field of energy.
7. Date and venue of the ninth session of the Committee on Energy.
8. Other matters.
9. Adoption of the report of the Committee on Energy on its eighth session.

54. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted the proposed organization of work in the form in which it appears in E/ESCWA/SDPD/2010/IG.1/L.2.

F. DOCUMENTS

55. A list of documents presented to the Committee on Energy at its eighth session is contained in annex II to this report.

Annex I

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

A. ESCWA MEMBER COUNTRIES

Bahrain

Mr. Ibrahim Mohammed Makki Omran
Chief, Transmission Planning and Studies
Planning and Studies Directorate
Electricity and Water Authority

Egypt

Mr. Mostafa Ibrahim Khamis
Undersecretary of State for Authorities Follow-up
Ministry of Electricity and Energy

Mr. Muhamad Mamdouh
Representative of the Embassy of the Arab
Republic of Egypt

Mr. Ragui el-Etreby
Counselor, Cabinet of the Minister
Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Iraq

Mr. Ali Abdul Aziz Al-Saudi
Chief Engineers
Ministry of Planning

Jordan

Mr. Saleh Al-Kharabisha
Secretary General
Ministry of Planning and International
Cooperation

Ms. Wijdan Rabadi
Cost and Pricing Department Director
Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources

Kuwait

Ms. Noor Al-Ajeel
Economic Analyst
Supreme Council for Planning and Development

Ms. Mona Al Rachedy
Investment Inspector
Supreme Council for Planning and Development

Mr. Saad Al-Jandal
Associate Research Scientist
Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research
Building and Energy Technologies Department
Environment and Urban Development Division

Lebanon

Mr. Kamal Fouad Hayek
President and General Director
Electricity of Lebanon

Mr. Raja Chafic El-Ali
Interim Head of the Specifications and Technical
Procedures
Studies Directorate
Electricity of Lebanon

Oman

Mr. Ali Bin Hamed Al-Ghafri
Director General, Electricity Affairs
Public Authority for Electricity and Water

Palestine

Mr. Muhannad Abdel Aziz Muhammad Akl
Deputy Director General for the Projects
Department
Energy Authority

Ms. Shurouq Ghneim
In charge of the energy file in the Ministry of
Planning and Administrative Development

Qatar

Mr. Reda Ibrahim Ali
Manager, Energy Policy and International
Relations
Qatar Petroleum

Ms. Mona Thamer Al-Maadeed
Manager New Energy Department
Qatar Petroleum

Qatar (continued)

Mr. Yussef Al-Jaidah
Head Transmission Planning
Electricity Networks Planning Department
Qatar General Electricity and Water Corporation,
Kahramaa

Mr. Muhamad Monan
Assistant, Director of the Planning and Business
Development Department
Qatar General Electricity and Water Corporation,
Kahramaa

Saudi Arabia

Mr. Majed Bin Ramsey Atteyah
First Secretary
Royal Embassy of Saudi Arabia

The Sudan

Mr. Hamad El-Nil Abdelkader Hamad El-Nil
Deputy Director General
Ministry of Energy and Mining

Mr. Abdurahman El-Nour Muhammad Rbwih
First Engineer for Energy Planning
General Directorate for Energy Affairs
Ministry of Energy

Syrian Arab Republic

Mr. Abdulhalem Kassem
Deputy Minister
Ministry of Electricity

United Arab Emirates

Mr. Hamdan Mubarak Al-Aakbari
Director
Economic Affairs Directorate
Petroleum and Minerals Sector
Ministry of Energy

Yemen

Mr. Ahmad Hassan Al-Aini
Deputy Minister
Ministry of Electricity and Energy

Mr. Amin Al-Hamdani
First Secretary
Embassy of the Republic of Yemen

B. REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

Economic Commission for Europe

Ms. Valerie Ducrot
Chief, Gas Centre

Regional Office of UNESCO/Cairo

Mr. Nizar Muhammad Hassan
Head of Sciences

United Nations Environment Programme/
Regional Office for West Asia

Mr. Farid Busheri
Regional DTIE Officer

C. EXPERTS

Mr. Mounir Bahri
Director of the Rational Use of Energy in
National Agency for Energy Conservation
in Tunisian Republic

Ms. Anhar Hegazi
Expert on "Energy for Sustainable Development"

Mr. Said Al Rabadi
Process Engineer
Linde Engineering

Annex II

LIST OF DOCUMENTS

Title	Item	Symbol
Annotated agenda	3	E/ESCWA/SDPD/2010/IG.1/L.1
Organization of work	3	E/ESCWA/SDPD/2010/IG.1/L.2
Progress achieved in the field of energy since the seventh session of the Committee on Energy	4	E/ESCWA/SDPD/2010/IG.1/3
Follow-up on the implementation of recommendations made by the Committee on Energy at its seventh session	4 (a)	E/ESCWA/SDPD/2010/IG.1/3(Part I)
Follow-up on the implementation of energy-related activities under ESCWA programme of work	4 (b)	E/ESCWA/SDPD/2010/IG.1/3(Part II)
Project on Disseminating Renewable Energy Services to Rural Villages in ESCWA Member Countries	4 (c)	E/ESCWA/SDPD/2010/IG.1/3(Part III)
Energy policies and measures for promoting climate change mitigation in ESCWA member countries	5	E/ESCWA/SDPD/2010/IG.1/4
General perspective on climate change mitigation in the field of energy	5 (a)	E/ESCWA/SDPD/2010/IG.1/4(Part I)
Producing electricity from renewable energy	5 (b)	E/ESCWA/SDPD/2010/IG.1/4(Part II)
Energy in transport	5 (c)	E/ESCWA/SDPD/2010/IG.1/4(Part III)
Producing energy from waste	5 (d)	E/ESCWA/SDPD/2010/IG.1/4(Part IV)
Regional and international cooperation and available opportunities	5 (e)	E/ESCWA/SDPD/2010/IG.1/4(Part V)
Proposed programme of work for the biennium 2012-2013 in the field of energy	6	E/ESCWA/SDPD/2010/IG.1/5