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Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA)

The 7th Edition of International Beirut Energy Forum (21 – 23 September 2016),
Final Consolidation Workshop entitled “Sustainable Energy Access for the Rural Areas” within the
Framework of the 7th International Beirut Energy Forum,
Le Royal Hotel Dbayeh, Beirut, Lebanon, 22 September 2016.

**DRAFT
WORKSHOP AGENDA**

Thursday, 22 September 2016

- 8:30 – 9:00 Registration**
Please bring your passport, visa stamp and airline ticket stub with you to the meeting.
- 9:00 – 9:30 Opening and Introduction**
Moderator: Ms. Radia Sedaoui, Chief, Energy Section, Sustainable Development Policies Division (SDPD),
- Ms. Roula Majdalani, Director, ESCWA’ SDPD
 - Objectives and outcomes of the UNDA Project
 - Overview of the Workshop Agenda
- 10:00 – 11:15 Session 1: Energy for Improving Rural Livelihoods**
- Lack of access to affordable modern energy services is usually associated with poverty in rural and remote areas, which account for 43 % of the Arab population. Several rural areas in the Arab region face socio-economic challenges. Amongst are the insufficient and unequal national support, growing population, and shortages in modern energy supply, relying instead on unsustainable traditional biomass energy, etc.*
- The dissemination of appropriate green technologies to rural areas if rightly pursued can gradually improve rural livelihood and act as a catalyst for people to acquire new sellable skills and contribute to rural economy. Appropriate renewable energy technologies (ARETs) can contribute to the sustainable development of rural society, through integration in the rural value-chains in agriculture, small agro-businesses and industries, rural traditional manufacturing, etc.*
- Moderator: ...

- Socio-Economic Context of The Rural Arab Region, Ms. Salwa Tawk, associated professor, Lebanese University, Faculty of Agriculture
- Green Technology Needs Assessment & Appropriate Policy Tools, Mr. George Nasr, ESCWA Expert, Associate Professor, Lebanese University.
- Enabling Factors for Policies and Financing of Green Technologies, Ms. Amel Bida, Sustainable Energy Policies Expert

Discussion

11:15 – 11:30 Coffee break

11:30 – 13:15 Session 2: Case Studies on Best Technologies and Policies Options

Many Arab countries have endorsed programs for promoting ARET for developing rural areas, in terms of improving living conditions, increasing local income and creating job opportunities with a focus on empowering the rural women. ARETs can play a significant role in this respect in terms of electrification, water heating, pumping and desalination, drying crops, solar cooking, etc. In spite of existence of some success stories in several Arab countries in the field of dissemination programs for solar water heaters in the residential sector, mostly in Palestine, Tunisia, Jordan, Egypt, and Morocco, and PV systems (to a certain extent), still application of ARETs, particularly biomass, remain largely untapped in the Arab rural region.

Moderator: ...

Presentations by participants of the DA project on best practices of modern technologies and policies:

- Jordan
- Sudan
- Oman
- Morocco
- Mauritania

Discussion

13:15 – 14:30 Lunch Break

14:30 – 16:15 Session 3: The Way Forward

The process of disseminating appropriate green technologies is multidimensional. Development institutions must have the capacity to design and implement initiatives for introducing appropriate technologies to rural communities based on reliable technology need assessment. Meanwhile, efficient national policies to encourage RE business in rural areas particularly at small and medium scales are indispensable, to realize the anticipated development.

Moderator: Ms. Radia Sedaoui, Chief of Energy Section

14:30 – 14:50 **Key presentation:** An Insight on Green Rural Entrepreneurship: Success Factors, Ms. Priyadarshini Karve, Managing Director, Samuchit Enviro Tech Pvt Ltd, India

14:50 – 16:15 **Panel Discussion: The Way Forward: Perspectives & Prospects, Plans, Challenges and Next Steps**

Interventions by participants and the focal points of some member countries in ESCWA Committee on Energy (CoE); namely:

- Egypt
- Lebanon
- Morocco
- Oman
- Palestine
- Sudan
- United Arab Emirates

16:15 – 16:30 **Coffee Break**

16:30 – 17:00 **Closing Session**

Wrap Up

NB: A follow up meeting on the implementation of the 10th session of ESCWA Committee on Energy will be directly held at the same meeting room at 17: 00 to 18:00.