

Sustainable Energy and the Transformation towards Sustainable and Resilient Societies

Wednesday 25 April 2018 | 16:00 – 17:30 | Main Hall | UN House, Beirut

Background:

The **development of sustainable energy systems** is a key component of all sustainable development efforts in the Arab region and one of the pillars of building sustainable and resilient societies. All economic, social and cultural activities require a sustainable input of energy, which can only be provided through sustainable energy systems, and **progress made in achieving SDG 7 is a critical** contributing factor to implementing the transition towards such energy systems. However, there are **many challenges** to expanding energy access for poor and vulnerable groups in the Arab region, including increasing levels of communities displaced by conflict.

ESCWA held a **“Preparatory Meeting on Energy-Related Issues for the AFSD-2018 and the HLPF”** on 27-28 March and the recommendations of the preparatory meeting will be presented and discussed during this session.

Session Objectives:

- To review and discuss the recommendations relating to energy and associated with the transformation process towards Sustainable and Resilient Societies which emanated from the Preparatory Meeting; and
- Assess progress made by Arab countries in achieving the SDG7 targets.

Themes of Discussion:

- Main features of sustainable energy systems in Arab countries and their links with SDG7 targets, challenges to the achievement of these targets and what progress has been made to achieve them;
- Main challenges, gaps and opportunities in addressing the interlinkages of SDG7 with other SDGs;
- Access to sustainable energy in the context of these challenges in the Arab region;
- Attracting and mobilizing financial resources for establishing sustainable energy systems in Arab countries; and
- Key priorities in national development plans that can accelerate the transformation towards sustainable energy systems.

Facilitator:

- **Ms. Roula Majdalani**, Director Sustainable Development Policies Division, UN-ESCWA

Panelists:

- **Mr. Mahmoud Mohamed Reda Mahmoud Fathallah**, Senior Economist, League of Arab States, Egypt
- **Mr. Ahmed Abdel-Aziz Mohamed Badr**, Executive Director Regional Center for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency RCREEE, Egypt
- **Mr. Ayman Fouad Ismail**, General Manager of PEC - Palestinian Energy and natural Resources Authority, Palestine
- **Ms. Yosra Albakkar**, Regional Program Manager. MENA Unit, Sida Water Cooperation and Natural Resources Programs, Embassy of Sweden, Jordan
- **Ms. Thirza Maria. Bronner**, Programme Director – Energy Transition Facility - Netherlands Enterprise Agency (Part of the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Climate Policy), The Netherland
- **Mr. Abdessalem Khazen**, Director of Renewable Energy National Agency for Energy Management, Tunisia