

**ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL
COUNCIL**

Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA)

REPORT**EXPERT GROUP MEETING ON:****“METHODOLOGY FOR MAINSTREAMING APPROPRIATE GREEN TECHNOLOGY
INITIATIVES IN RURAL AREAS OF THE ARAB REGION”****Summary**

The expert group meeting on “Methodology for Mainstreaming Appropriate Green Technology Initiatives in Rural Areas of the Arab Region” of the Development Account (DA) Project entitled BUILDING CAPACITIES IN DEVELOPING APPROPRIATE GREEN TECHNOLOGIES FOR IMPROVING THE LIVELIHOOD OF RURAL COMMUNITIES IN THE ESCWA REGION was held on 25-26 February 2015.

The EGM focused on the use of Renewable Energy Technology Systems (RETS) for productive use in rural areas of the Arab region and effect on enhancing energy access. It also tackled methodologies for assessing RET needs to improve productivity of income generating activities as well as models for effective financing of small and medium RET in rural areas. The EGM also shed the light on the importance of the private sector participation in the dissemination of RET in rural areas as well as identifying policy tools drivers for RET dissemination in rural areas.

Throughout the EGM, discussions stimulated the understanding of the fact that the dissemination of clean energy in rural areas is most sustainable when targeting productive sectors that have the capacity to finance the procurement, operation and maintenance of RET. It did also address the role of access to information on technological developments, and the type of capacity development needed in formulating business model and understanding the value chain of relevant productive sectors in rural areas. Discussions raised the issue of funding energy access and looked into best practices.

The EGM also tackled gaps, overlaps and complementarities between private and public provisions of energy services in remote/rural areas and the role of policy tools for enhancing complementarities and coordination among various stakeholders and sectors involved in providing energy services. This discussion focused on the fact that energy strategy, institutional set up and organizations have key role. Local development agencies have an important role in advising energy customers and public administrations, provide training, support RE project development and fund-raising especially in rural areas. Policy key actions have been identified for rural areas with the need for governments to introduce measures to develop markets through: (1) stable and predictable policies, (2) providing

targeted support (local conditions), (3) adequate mechanisms for financing, (4) strong monitoring framework, (5) Rethink subsidy mechanisms for fossil fuels. Moreover, international and national agencies can play important role in increasing local governments' awareness, providing technical assistance, and addressing financing needs. Furthermore, discussions have specified needed policies for promoting the adoption of RE technologies. These include integrated national sustainability strategies, integrated local development plans, awareness programs (local communities, local level institutions, private sector, etc.), integrated capacity building programs, enhanced coordination between the related stakeholders (donors, government., private sector, NGOs), technology transfer, incentive-based system, and financing mechanism.

The meeting resulted in formulating guidelines for training practitioners in rural development on assessing socio-economic situations in rural areas and identifying opportunities for enhancing productivity of rural value chains using RE technologies. Based on the presentations and discussions of the key elements of the guideline, the guideline was proposed to have two main components: (1) Issues addressed to policy makers, and (2) Issues addressed to practitioners. The discussion leads to identifying optimal approaches and methodologies for undertaking capacity building activities for the two main target groups.

The discussion looked into the mainstreaming of appropriate green technology (AGP) that can only be achieved through both enabling policies and sustained implementation. It is said that the training structure should take into account the needs for policy makers to formulate the policy mix, and the need for local practitioners to map local resources in order to plot the value chains and guide activities in rural areas.

In the context of mainstreaming Appropriate Green Technologies (AGT), both policy makers and practitioners need to ensure that national policies translate properly to the rural level. Policy makers need to ensure that, after their country has developed a (1) clear national strategy, the policies work to achieve measurable progress in three key categories: (2) Policy Framework; (3) Finance and Investment; and (4) Market Structure.

I. Introduction

1- Sustainable Development Policies Division (SDPD) in collaboration with the Technology for Development Division (TDD)/ESCWA Technology Center (ETC), ESCWA, organized this expert group meeting to assess capacity building needs of rural development practitioners and policymakers to enhance their role in promoting rural access to appropriate renewable energy technologies. The meeting also aims to identify criteria for formulating guidelines for capacity building activities targeting practitioners and policy makers, and enhancing knowledge exchange among concerned stakeholders.

2- The main focus areas of the meeting are set forth below:

The objectives and focus areas of this EGM are mainly the following:

- a) The use of RET for productive use in rural areas of the Arab region and effect on enhancing energy access,
- b) Methodology for assessing RET needs to improve productivity of income generating activities, – Models for effective financing of small and medium RET in rural areas,
- c) Private sector participation in the dissemination of RET in rural areas,
- d) Identifying policy tools drivers for RET dissemination in rural areas,
- e) Guidelines for training practitioners in rural development on assessing socio-economic situations in rural areas and identifying opportunities for enhancing productivity of rural value chains using RE technologies,

II. PRESENTATIONS AND DISCUSSIONS

3. The EGM started with an opening session by Ms. Roula Majdalani, the director of the Sustainable Development Policies Division (SDPD) at ESCWA, followed by a short introduction by Mr. Haidar Fraihat, the director of Technology for Development Division (TDD) by providing an overview of the meeting objectives, programme of work and rules of procedure to be followed during the meeting.

1. SESSION 1: SETTING THE STAGE

4. This session was moderated by Mr. Haidar Fraihat, director of Technology for Development Division (TDD). An overview of the project entitled “Building capacities in developing appropriate green technologies for improving the livelihood of rural communities in the ESCWA region” by Mr. Imad Sleiman, the Project Coordinator was given. Followed by two presentations by Mr. George Nasr who tackled the framework for mainstreaming appropriate green technologies initiative, and another by Mr. Abed ElHadi Zein, identifying green technologies and explaining what works well in the rural communities of the Arab region.

2. SESSION 2: APPROPRIATE RENEWABLE ENERGY TECHNOLOGIES (ARET) FOR PRODUCTIVE USE IN THE RURAL PRODUCTIVE SECTORS OF THE ARAB REGION

5. This session was moderated by Mr. Fouad Mrad, Executive director of ESCWA Technology Center (ETC) in Jordan. The session started by a presentation by Ms. Tahani Abudaqqa, chairwoman at the Palestinian Solar and Sustainable Energy Society on the Productive Use of Energy in Palestine. The second presentation was given by Mr. Ulrike Lehr who is a senior expert at the Institute of Economic Structures Research (GWS) at Germany, on ARET for productive use in the rural productive sectors of the Arab Region, with remark on the European Experience. This was followed by a presentation on production use of renewable energy in rural areas by Muhieddin Tawalbeh, who is the head of Energy Efficiency & Solar Thermal Division of the National Energy Research Center at Jordan. Then a presentation was given by Ms. Diala Hawila, who is an Associate Programme Officer at IRENA on the socio-economic benefits of off-grid technologies. The last presentation was given by Mr. Turki Al-Rasheed who is a CEO of Golden Grass at the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

4. Ms. Abudaqqa started her presentation by pointing out that rural development should tackle all aspects of life of rural communities. She then defines the issues that hinder rural development in Palestine with the lack of electricity, scarcity of water, and difficulties in storing (cooling) and transporting products. Then she identifies the importance of solar thermal air conditioning in the country due to the loss of many agricultural products with the rise in temperature. Later on she brought the attention to the importance of studying the livelihood prior the dissemination of any technology, and the need to train the communities on operating and maintaining the technologies once disseminated or implemented. She ended her presentation by stressing on the need to coordinate efforts of international organizations to set a regional plan rather on working solo.

5. Mr. Ulrike identified drivers for RE in rural areas in EU. He noted that agriculture is heavily subsidized therefore investment support and replacing price subsidies with investment subsidies could be more productive. He added that application of RE can spur production and hence increase the income of rural communities. Moreover, increased economic activity from investment in RE improves the regional infrastructure and therefore increases attractiveness. He added that using RE on farms in EU, has accelerated innovation and modernization, increased entrepreneurship of farmers, and encourages cooperation for larger investments and hence, increases attractiveness of rural areas.

6. Ms. Hawila started her presentation by noting that billions of people around the world lack electricity. He added that with understanding the potential benefits of off grid technologies, policies can be designed to deploy off-grid renewable, which would improve the sustainability of the system. These benefits are interlinked and overlapping between environmental, economic, health, welfare, and education. She later identified constraining factors that should be tackled, including; the need for community engagement, access to finance, knowledge and capabilities, and access to markets and employment. She ended her presentation by stating that simple solutions can have big impacts.

7. Mr. Tawalbe started his presentation by giving an overview of the energy sector that is heavily dependent on conventional energy sources. He added that households consume 43 % of the

electricity. Later on, he showed implemented RE projects by NERC in rural areas with successful cases of Wind, PV, and even biogas systems. He then showed that PV systems are more efficient and cost effective than diesel engines. Mr. Tawalbe then discussed the benefits of RE implementation in terms of job creation, knowledge transfer, and technical experience that can be leveraged for job opportunities in this field. He ended his presentation by stressing the need to train the rural communities on operating and maintaining RE technologies adopted to improve the sustainability of technologies implemented.

8. Mr. Turki indicated the need to enhance the strategic management capabilities on the public sector of the GCC and Arab world to achieve sustainable development and figure out the way to integrate and address social farming to rural communities. In addition to, indicating the strategic social change for the benefits of the stakeholders in terms of incentives, education, employment, communication, planning, and managements to achieved a sustainable development by improving the livelihood of Rural communities in the ESCWA Region.

3. SESSION 3: METHODOLOGY FOR MAINSTREAMING ARET FOR PRODUCTIVE USE

9. The session was moderated by Mr. George Nasr who is an associate professor at the faculty of Engineering at the Lebanese University.

10. The first presentation on promoting the productive use of energy was given by Mr. Caspar Priesemann who is an energy advisor at Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit, Germany. The second presentation on methodologies for mainstreaming ARET for productive use, was given by Mr. Xavier Valve who is an international consultant and partner at Trama Tecno Ambiental, Spain. The session ended with a presentation, by Mr. Kentaro Aoki who is a project manager at UNIDO Austria, on lessons learned on enhancing local capacity appropriate uses.

11. Mr. Priesemann noted that expanding electricity access is a necessary but rarely a conclusively sufficient precondition for enabling social and economic development. He then introduced the Production Use of Energy (PRODUCE) as a joint initiative of ESMAP, AEI, EUEIPDF, and GIZ that supply material on; impact evaluation methodology and studies, manual for the electrification practitioners, and manual on productive use of thermal energy. He then identifies methodology that includes; (1) Feasibility and initial planning, (2) Analysis and programme design, (3) implementation, (4) Monitoring and evaluation. He then explained the strategy for promoting RE, which begins with market assessment, then awareness raising, business development services, access to finance, and following up.

12. Mr. Priesemann ended his presentation by giving recommendations for promoting productive use of energy. They included: (1) knowing the market esp. local skill and potential barriers, (2) the need for a solid business plan while working with entrepreneurship that have prior knowledge of

operating a business, (3) Applying sound financial assistance intervention, (4) facilitating the up taking of RET via regulations and hence, the involvement of policy makers.

13. Mr. Valve' introduced the Alliance for Rural Electrification as an international business association that work towards the integration of renewables into rural electrification markets. He then explained that to mainstream ARET, it is important that we go for bottom up approach opportunity for rural electrification, and a micro grid concept for optimizing resources. He then added that to enhance the capacity of rural development practitioners it is important to adopt technical strategies of understanding technologies and resources, intermittency of RE and seasonality, and the level of operation complexity and requirements while sharing experiences from pilot projects and field experiences. For Economic strategies, it is crucial to build a cost structure, business model, and consider micro financing, adding to that, the importance of support from public- private entities.

14. Mr. Aoki explained UNIDO's RE strategy, which is an intersection between ; (1) Creating business development opportunities through increasing access to energy through mini-grids, (2) Mainstreaming the use of RE in industry (SMEs), (3) Supporting innovative business models to promote RE in business sector. Mr. Aoki then mentioned the required local capacity, that includes (1) Adaptation/installation of tech (like: turbine, generator), (2) Operation (trash collection, emergency/safety measure), (3) Maintenance, (4) Full utilization of energy generated (peak load management, EE,...)

4. SESSION 4: RET FINANCING IN RURAL REGIONS: BEST PRACTICES

15. The session was moderated by Imad Hamze who is an international economic development expert, in Tunisia. The first presentation was on Banque Du Liban incentives, by Mazen Halawi who is the head of financing unit at Banque Du Liban. The second was given by Mr. Rami Khoury, who is the programme manager at the Institut Européen de Coopération et de Développement (IECD), on Lebanese rural access to financing. Then a presentation was given on ESCAP's pro poor public private partnership (5p) approach, by Mr. Kohji Iwakami, an economic affairs officer at the environment and development division at UNESCAP in Thailand. Last presentation was given by Mr. Taoufik Laabi who is the director of strategy planning at the Organisation Nationale d'Electricite et d'Energie (ONEE), on the Moroccan Rural Electrification Program and the challenges of global access to electricity.

16. Mr. Halawi identified the different financing incentives that Banque du Liban offers. One of these incentives is the Environmental/ Energy Loan that can that can benefit all economic sectors. He mentioned that the energy incentive: NEERA has been financing several projects with less than 1 % interest rate.

17. In his presentation, Mr. khoury has informed the participants about different factors that can impact access to finance and thus hinder RE promotion in rural areas. These include; lack of Info on renewable Energy, lack of info on access to loans, and lack of info on financial institutions that exist in rural areas. Also because of high rates of interest imposed by the microfinance institution, beside

those supported by a commercial bank, and that people in rural areas are not used to invest in something that is not in direct relation with their business.

18. The 5P approach aims to enhance rural productivity and create income-generating opportunities. It works to establish multi-level stakeholder partnerships, including PPPs, in which community mobilization and co-ownership of the energy utility has proven to be key to 5P project sustainability as Mr. Iwakami stated. To choose RET technologies and their sizing, it is important to do resource assessment, environmental and socio-economic impact assessment, technology and financial assessment, and figure out community needs. Based on ESCAP experience, partnership and counterpart capacity building has been a major component to effective project implementation and scalability (with the involvement of NGOs, private sector, and technical advisors. Moreover, he identifies that the major issue is not availability of financial capital, but the mechanisms to access funds at affordable rates and de-risk off-grid energy projects. As such, strong public sector support and understanding on the role of the private sector as an investor and provider of energy services is critical.

19. In his presentation, Mr. Laabi discussed the situation of the Moroccan power system, where he identifies that 11, 5 percent is the penetration rate of RE in terms of energy mix. He then defines the Moroccan Energy Strategy, with the launching of important projects like the Moroccan Integrated Wind Energy Program, by ONEE (2 000 MW by 2020) and the Moroccan Integrated solar Energy Project, by Masen (2 000 MW by 2020), and the appropriate institutional and legislative framework for RE development. Mr. Laabi later identifies the factors of success of the different projects implemented. These factors included continuous government support; reliable financing package, and consultation and involvement of industrial professional partners.

5. SESSION 5: POLICY TOOLS FOR INCENTIVIZING PRIVATE INVESTMENT IN RENEWABLE ENERGY TECHNOLOGIES TO PROMOTE ENERGY ACCESS IN RURAL AREAS

20. The session was moderated by Mr. Walid El Deghaili who is an energy expert working for ESCWA. The first presentation was given by Mr. Nader Al Ottom, head of renewable energy department at the Energy & Minerals Regulatory Commission in Jordan, on the role and achievements of Energy and Minerals Regulatory Commission regarding renewable energy in Jordan. The second presentation was given on integrated renewable energy policies in ESCWA rural areas, by Emmanuel Begrasse who is an energy policy expert in Spain. The following presentation was given by Zitouni Ould-Dada, head of technology unit at UNEP, France, on policy tools for incentivizing private sector investment in RET to promote energy access in rural areas. Last presentation was given on energy policies by Mr. Mohammed Al Amoush, director of Al Urdonia Lil Ebda in Jordan.

21. Mr. Ottom mentioned the RE Regulatory Framework and the RE & EE law and projects that were issued in 2012 for electricity generation. Jordan has set target of 10% of RE to be contributed in the primary energy mix in 2020. Mr. Ottom also mentioned the standard regulatory tools that have been prepared by the Electricity Regulatory Commission (EMRC), in addition to, regulatory

directives for small scale projects and promoting net metering, and the issue of an electric power wheeling directive that allow consumers to install RE systems for electric power generation from RE and connect them to the electric grid yet with a monthly financial settlement.

22. Mr. Bergasse stated that despite the high potential in MENA, RE remains marginal with 3% of the total energy mix. Many obstacles are well known, starting with high universal subsidies, rapid demand growth, high transaction cost, and the lack of information. This situation is even tougher in rural areas of MENA region. Yet, over the last 5 years impressive achievements have been noticed along three policy fields; energy policies, institutional, and instruments, but still, little applied in rural areas. Mr. Bergasse also mentioned that subsidization benefits the richest, and that universal subsidies are not sustainable over medium term even with cheap oil. He later mentioned a number of alternatives for energy subsidies that included: targeted and individualized cash support/safety net, electricity & gas block (lifeline) tariffs, energy efficiency incentives (such as: flat insulation, low consumption appliances), and gradual phase out of universal subsidies by price adjustment mechanism: easier with drop of oil prices. He added that with any energy strategy, institutional set up and organizations have key role. Local development agencies have an important role in advising energy customers and public administrations, provide training, support EE&RE project development and fund-raising especially in rural areas. Mr. Bergasse then identified the key pillars of an integrated socio-economic and energy strategy, which are; Socio-economic development and transversal reforms (statistics, governance), energy strategy and institutions, and SEP (NEEAP, NREAP). He ended his presentation by stressing on the need for a need for integrated Socio-economic & Energy/cimate Strategies and Regional energy policy cooperation: catalyst role (forum, pilots).

23. Mr. Ould Dada identified the policy landscape in the Arab region, where 9 out of the 12 countries who committed to new policy targets in 2012 were in oil-exporting countries and of the 16 countries with power generation policies in the Arab countries, more than the 2/3rd are in the net-oil exporting countries. The oil-exporting countries have most ambitious targets in the region, suggesting that they will rapidly become the leading countries in the region for renewable energy investment, capacity and production. Mr. Dada added that when preparing for investment, feasibility will depend on: (1) Technology to match needs, (2) Stable policy framework, (3) Sufficient capacity building, (4) Understanding local conditions, (5) Experience of practical implementation in targeted local communities. Mr. Ould Dada ended his presentation with policy key actions for rural areas with the need for governments to introduce measures to develop markets through: (1) stable and predictable policies, (2) providing targeted support (local conditions), (3) adequate mechanisms for financing, (4) strong monitoring framework, (5) and rethink subsidy mechanisms for fossil fuels. He also added that international and national agencies can play important role in increasing local governments' awareness, providing technical assistance, and addressing financing needs.

24. According to Mr. Alamoush government promotion of RE in rural areas is meant to increase production, improve the quality of life, overcome energy supply gaps, and overcome challenges in RE financing on the long term. Yet different challenges hinders the promotion of RE including socio-economic, limited awareness, lack of qualified RE policy makers, lack of stable regulatory framework, and subsidized conventional energy resources. Adding to that, the lack of incentives, increase in demand, and incomplete or insufficient coordination between government agencies. Mr. Alamoush ended his presentation with the needed policies for promoting the adoption of RE technologies. These include: integrated national sustainability strategies, integrated local development

plans, awareness programs (local communities, local level institutions, private sector, etc.), integrated capacity building programs, enhanced coordination between the related stakeholders (donors, government., private sector, NGOs), technology transfer, incentive-based system, and financing mechanism.

6. Session 6: Panel Discussions: Guidelines for promoting RET in rural Areas of the Arab region

25. This session was moderated jointly by three experts; Mr. Ulrike Lehr, Mr. George Nasr, and Mr. Nizar Halaseh who is an ESCWA consultant working at the ESCWA Technology Center based in Jordan.

26. Based on the presentations and discussions of the previous sessions the panel discussion identified the key elements of the guideline. The guideline included 1- Issues addressed to policy makers, and 2- Issues addressed to practitioners. The discussion identified optimal approaches and methodologies for undertaking capacity building activities for the two main target groups.

27. Based on the presentations and discussions of the previous sessions the panel discussion identified the key elements of the guideline. The guideline was proposed to have two main components: (1) Issues addressed to policy makers, and (2) Issues addressed to practitioners. The discussions lead to identifying optimal approaches and methodologies for undertaking capacity building activities for the two main target groups.

28. The discussion looked into the mainstreaming of appropriate green technology (AGP) that can only be achieved through both enabling policies and sustained implementation. It is said that the training structure should take into account the needs to for policy makers to formulate the policy mix, and the need for local practitioners to map local resources in order to plot the value chains and guide activities in rural areas.

29. In the context of mainstreaming Appropriate Green Technologies (AGT), both policy makers and practitioners need to ensure that national policies translate properly to the rural level. Policy makers need to ensure that, after their country has developed a (1) clear national strategy, the policies work to achieve measurable progress in three key categories; (2) Policy Framework; (3) Finance and Investment; and (4) Market Structure.

30. In reference to policy strategy, it should focus on an integrated approach, of which the ultimate goal is development. This must include energy policy, and ensures that local strategic needs be a priority. Moreover, the policy framework would need to define the role of Institutions in the rural context and leverage the involvement of the private sector. The framework needs to address the involvement of various institutions as part of an integrated approach and the way to implement it. Moreover, it should look into the involvement of the private sector, and the need for a participatory approach on means to get information to "trickle up" from rural areas and inform policy, and ensure local knowledge is properly leveraged. Furthermore, it is important for the framework to look into defining policy audience, and the need for certification that (1) Protects consumers; (2) Defines, Certifies, and Classifies providers; and (3) does not overburden local rural practitioners.

31. Regarding finance and investment, grants were identified as a necessary tool to “quick start” some AGT implementations. Subsidies were said to be also important, but they need to be properly targeted and should be easy to revise. Later on discussions tackle the issue of market structure and the need for it to be enhanced in terms of price stability to secure investments, and the need to account for market forces (RESCO pricing, Performance Contracting...), and avoid pricing that “locks in” rural areas in obsolete or unsustainable technologies.

32. In regards to the practitioners, it is important for the strategy to focus on ensuring that local communities can and do use their own means to implement AGT. This is done in a context that prioritizes development and includes Energy Policy. Practitioners need to carry out a needs assessment for the target rural areas that identifies target groups, develops a roster of experts, leverages local knowledge developed by existing utilities, ministry team, and provides appropriate training to ensure local actors can properly leverage their local knowledge and evaluate technologies.

33. Appropriate Technology need to be defined in the local context, taking into account the business model, and the need for combined power generation to “smooth” the production cycle. At the level of the policy framework, practitioners need to address both institutions and the need for participatory, where it is crucial that rural areas be able to "map" the institutions that are relevant to them. Moreover, with respect to the participatory approach, there is a need to figure out the mean to inform policy, and leverage Local knowledge.

34. The discussion also tackled the issue finance & investment that should be addressed to help local users identify the grants that are available, and the means to benefit from any special pricing scheme that may be developed.

III. EVALUATION

38. An evaluation questionnaire was distributed in order to assess the relevance, effectiveness and impact of the meeting. a total of 25 experts responded to the questionnaire, out of which 96% rated the overall quality of the EGM as good to excellent quality. a total of 88% thought that the objectives of the EGM were met “to a satisfactory extent” and “to a great extent”. in rating the preparations of the EGM a total of 96% found them good to excellent. in terms of the usefulness of the EGM for reaching its objectives a total 84% rated the relevance of one’s expertise to the subject as good to excellent, a total of 88% rated the relevance of other experts’ expertise to the subject as good to excellent, a total of 84% rated the EGM provided a forum for exchange of information and experience among experts as good to excellent, a total of 88% rated the EGM provided an opportunity to establish new useful contacts as good to excellent, and a total of 80% rated the EGM provided useful input for future work as good to excellent. a total of 88% found that presentations have good to excellent clarity, and 96% found that the organizational arrangements for and during the EGM were good to excellent. With regard to follow-up action 88% of respondents were positive while the rest did not express an opinion

39. Follow up actions:

- ✓ Dissemination of findings and assessment of impacts on activities in rural/remote areas
- ✓ Launch Workshops in different countries
- ✓ Focus on failures and success stories
- ✓ Present and validate the developed guidelines
- ✓ Organize a meeting between experts and policy makers

IV. ORGANIZATION OF WORK

A. VENUE AND DATE

40. The Expert Group Meeting of the Development Account Project “Promoting market-driven access to sustainable modern energy services in the Arab rural regions” was held at UN-House ESCWA in Beirut, Lebanon on 25-26 February 2015.

41. The Expert Group Meeting falls under the Development Account (DA) project on "Building Capacities in Developing Appropriate Green Technologies for Improving the Livelihood of Rural Communities in the ESCWA Region".

B. OPENING

40. The EGM of the DA project was formally opened by Ms. .Roula Majdalani, Director of SDPD, at UN-ESCWA.

C. PARTICIPANTS

41. The EGM was attended by energy experts, green technology specialists, rural development practitioners, energy policy developers, among others. The list of participants is contained in the annex to this report.

D. AGENDA

42. The agenda of the event included the following:
- Welcoming remarks, and presenting on the projects objectives and expected outcomes
 - Appropriate Renewable Energy Technologies (ARET) for Productive Use in the Rural Productive Sectors of the Arab Region
 - Methodology for Mainstreaming ARET for Productive Use
 - RET Financing In Rural Practices
 - Policy Tools for Incentivizing Private Investment in Renewable Energy Technologies To Promote Energy Access in rural Areas
 - Guidelines for Promoting RET in Rural Areas of the Arab Region

ANNEX

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