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Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) and Climate Technology Centre Network (CTCN)

Green Technology Investments and Access to Sustainable Financing in the Arab Region
UN-House, Beirut, Lebanon 4 - 6 March 2019

INFORMATION NOTE

I. BACKGROUND

ESCWA Technology Center (ETC) organized the Sixth Technical Committee (TC) meeting during 2-3 October 2018 in Amman, Jordan to provide guidance on the focus areas of the Centre and on its work program for 2019. The Technical Committee discussions were informed by a background paper revolving around the outcome of ESCWA 30th Ministerial Session and key regional technological priorities. One of the key issues discussed during the TC meeting focused on investments and access to sustainable financing for green and climate technologies.

Financing climate change requires large investments in mitigation and adaptation projects in the Arab region. In 2009, the Expert Group on Technology Transfer of the UNFCCC estimated the costs of implementing 165 adaptation technologies that were needed for developing countries, between \$49 billion and \$171 billion per year, globally, and can go up to \$380 billion per year if the impact on some economic sectors (manufacturing, tourism, ...) and the cost of protecting and reviving ecosystems are accounted for¹.

In the Arab region, governments are pressured to mobilize significant resources to lessen the impact of climate change. Domestic public resources are constrained and burdened by increasing fiscal deficits (consolidated fiscal deficit stood at 9.9 per cent of GDP in 2016) and geo-political instability in many countries; private sector's involvement in adaptation and mitigation projects is still limited and accessing international funds is yet to reach its full potential².

Within the above context, ETC and CTCN in cooperation with the National Council for Scientific Research (CNRS) in Lebanon are jointly organizing a meeting titled "Green Technology Investments and Access to Sustainable Financing in the Arab Region" to support countries to access the financing opportunities in the Arab region. The meeting will be held in Beirut, Lebanon during 4-6 March 2019.

¹ United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA). 2017. Climate Change Adaptation and Economic Development Using Integrated Water Resources Management Tools. Beirut, E/ESCWA/SDPD/2017/Module.5.

² UNESCWA, Survey of Economic and Social Developments in the Arab Region 2016-2017. 2017. E/ESCWA/EDID/2017/1

II. ORGANIZERS:

ESCWA Technology Centre (ETC) is a specialized regional centre established in 2010 and hosted by the government of Jordan at the Royal Scientific Society in Amman. The Centre's mission is to assist ESCWA member countries and public and private organizations to acquire the tools and capabilities necessary to accelerate socio-economic development in order to attain technological parity with other nations and regions of the world, and to contribute to the conversion of the economies of member countries into economies based on scientific and technological knowledge. The main objectives of the Centre is to strengthen the capabilities of local, national and regional stakeholders operating in member countries to develop, transfer, and adapt technology; and improve the legal and commercial framework for the transfer of such technologies. The Centre also aims at enhancing the technological and scientific knowledge content of major economic sectors in member countries.

ETC, is currently focusing its regional work on promoting appropriate, affordable and environmentally sound technologies and technology transfer for SDGs achievement particularly zooming in on SDGs: 2 (Zero Hunger), and 12 (Sustainable Consumption and Production) along with SDG 17 on Technology for 2019.

Climate Technology Centre Network (CTCN) is the operational arm of the UNFCCC Technology Mechanism, hosted by the UN Environment Programme and the UN Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO). The Centre promotes the accelerated transfer of environmentally sound technologies for low carbon and climate resilient development at the request of developing countries. CTCN provides technology solutions, capacity building and advice on policy, legal and regulatory frameworks tailored to the needs of individual countries by harnessing the expertise of a global network of technology companies and institutions³.

The CTCN support countries in deploying technologies that will help them reach their targets related to climate change, in line with the Paris Agreement and with the priorities submitted in their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) submitted in the context of the United Nations Convention Framework on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

The National Council for Scientific Research of Lebanon (CNRS-L) is serving the scientific community in Lebanon covering all scientific disciplines. Its main objective is to encourage scientific research and support human resources development along the general scientific policies adopted by the government.

III. OBJECTIVES

The main objective of the meeting is to discuss green and climate technology deployment and access to finance as key means of implementation (MOI) to accelerate SDGs achievement and NDCs implementation. The outcome of the meeting will be used to formulate a set of options on how best to scale up on these functioning solutions to best address the MOI in the SDGs dialogues.

Specifically, the experts will get acquainted with existing green technology and financing initiatives and examine how to scale these initiatives at national and regional levels. The experts will also benefit from a review of existing national, regional and international experiences related to green technologies and financing. Specific objectives of the meeting are:

³ <https://www.ctc-n.org/>

- Enhance understanding of green/climate technologies and innovative financing as outlined in Goal 17 of the SDGs focusing on agricultural / food sector (with related other sectors e.g. water & energy sectors), and on conflict waste management in the Arab region.
- Support countries in identifying and deploying technologies to achieve the climate targets included in their NDCs, in the context of the Paris Agreement
- Discuss mobilizing the available technical assistance and financing for technologies and technology transfer introducing the available funding opportunities for the Arab region
- Review options on a way forward to promote the adoption of green technologies and innovative financing taking into account gender and youth perspectives as well as creation of job opportunities.
- Discuss further collaboration between Arab countries, ESCWA and CTCN in the areas of technical assistance, networking and knowledge sharing.

IV. WORKING THEME OF THE MEETING

Theme 1: Green technology transfer and adaptation in the Global Processes

- Introduction of the main International mechanisms and agreements:
 - Technical assistance
 - Financing: CTCN, GCF, AF, etc.
- Discuss Arab countries implementation to achieve global commitments: Analysis of NDCs of participating countries and discussion

Theme 2: Green Technology transfer in the Arab region, aspirations for better future

- Regional scene: discuss Arab countries SDGs implementation and analysis of NDCs of participating countries
- Available green technologies to support achievement of Goal 12 on SCP including the agricultural /food sector (with related other sectors e.g. water & energy sectors) and conflict waste management - thematic experts
- Case studies of ongoing / successful technology deployment in the region

Theme 3: Mobilizing national and international funds for Inclusive Green Growth Investment in the Arab region

- Mapping of finance flows: where are the gaps. Barriers faced by countries to trigger funding and investments in their priority sectors.
- Reviewing the role of regional private sector in green growth financing.
- Tapping the international Investor to review sources of capital and financial instruments.

Theme 4: Coordination and financing pipeline at national level to ensure technology deployment

- Enhancing linkages between Technology Mechanism, the Financial Mechanism of the Convention at the national level, and other climate initiatives
- Matching technology potential with country priorities, including identifying transboundary and common priorities in the region

V. PARTICIPANTS

Participants in the meeting include selected experts from the eighteen ESCWA member countries⁴, ETC 6th Technical Committee, selected focal points for GCF, CTCN, and other along with regional experts from, ALECSO, AIDMO, AAAID and AOAD. In addition to the public sector, the organizers will also invite representatives from the private sector and civil society.

VI. ORGANIZATION OF THE MEETING

A. Date and venue

The Meeting will be held for two and half days during 4-6 March 2019 at the UN House in Beirut, Lebanon. Participants are kindly requested to arrive at 9:00 am on 4 March 2019 to register for the meeting which will promptly start at 9:30 am with the opening session. The meeting will conclude on 6th of March 2019.

B. Language of the session

The meeting will be conducted in the Arabic and English languages. Simultaneous interpretation from and into Arabic and English will be available.

C. Registration

Invited experts are kindly requested to submit their completed meeting registration form (attached) before 3rd February 2019.

D. Visa requirements

Participants are expected to apply for their entry visas themselves and should not leave their countries before securing their visas. An invitation letter will be provided by ESCWA to support your visa application.

Participants are advised to check with the Lebanese embassy in their home country as to whether they need a visa to enter Lebanon.

Participants of restricted countries who required a visa entry to Beirut, Lebanon (Palestine, Yemen, Libya, Sudan, Mauritania), ESCWA will submit their visa application in case all documents were received **before 08 Feb 2018** (Full Colored Scanned Passport Copy, ID Photo, Work Statement)

Participants from Palestine, are required to submit IN/OUT permission in addition to the required documents and to make sure that their passports do not hold Israeli stamps and seals.

E. Travel

Air travel reservation and ticketing for sponsored participants will be arranged by sponsors. Roundtrip tickets will be issued in economy class on the least expensive route in accordance with United Nations Financial Rules and Regulations. Participants attending the meeting at their own cost are responsible for making their own travel arrangements. Sponsored participants will receive a daily subsistence allowance

⁴ ESCWA member countries: Bahrain, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Mauritania, Morocco, Oman, Palestine, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Syria, Tunisia, United Arab Emirates, Yemen.

(DSA) to cover the cost of their hotel, meals and incidental expenses, in addition to a fixed terminal expenses allowance to cover their airport transfers.

Sponsored participants are kindly requested to bring with them on the first day of the meeting their passport, a copy of their airline ticket and original boarding pass. Participants from Palestine are also requested to bring their bridge crossing fee receipt.

CORRESPONDENCE

Inquiries and completed registration forms should be submitted to the following officials:

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