



CLIMATE TECHNOLOGY CENTRE &amp; NETWORK

المنظمة العربية للتنمية الصناعية والتعدين  
Arab Industrial Development  
and Mining Organisation

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## Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA)

ESCWA Technology Centre's Expert Group Meeting on  
"Green Technology Transfer, Adaptation and Investment Required  
for Implementing SDG 12: Sustainable Consumption and Production"  
Amman, Jordan 30-31 July 2019

### Information Note

#### I. Background

The region has been facing common environmental problems and challenges, mainly related to the way human activities have developed, and the associated unsustainable patterns of production and consumption. Addressing these challenges requires the transition to a green, circular, low carbon and socially inclusive economy through the adoption of sustainable consumption and production patterns, thus decoupling development from environmental degradation and resource depletion. Sustainable consumption and production refers to "the use of services and related products, which respond to basic needs and bring a better quality of life while minimizing the use of natural resources and toxic materials as well as the emissions of waste and pollutants over the life cycle of the service or product so as not to jeopardize the needs of future generations"<sup>1</sup>.

At the regional level, a key milestone in implementing SCP was the development of the Arab Regional Strategy for Sustainable Consumption and Production (ARSSCP), which was adopted by the Council of Arab Ministers Responsible for the Environment – CAMRE- at its 20<sup>th</sup> session ten years ago in 2009. The strategy aims to promote SCP in the region by encouraging the utilization of products and services that ensure environmental protection, conserve water and energy as well as other natural resources, while contributing to poverty eradication and sustainable lifestyles<sup>2</sup>. At least seven countries in the region have adopted National SCP Action Plans or similar document, representing promising progress in national SCP planning in the region. This is critical if actions to achieve SCP are to gain the necessary political support, momentum and funding.

During the 30<sup>th</sup> ministerial session (25-28 June 2018)<sup>3</sup>, ESCWA Member Countries (EMC) adopted the Beirut Consensus which highlighted the great potential for current and emerging technology and innovation to contribute to sustainable development, and the importance of working on technologies associated with natural resources management, in particular water and energy efficiency, renewable energy leading to food security and environmental sustainability. EMC requested from ESCWA secretariat to focus and further its activities on rapidly evolving technological advancements, enhance productivity and sustainability, raise awareness on technologies for the inclusion of youth, older persons and persons with disabilities, and achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls in the Arab region. Furthermore, to share experiences and best practices in technology transfer and adaptation

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.unenvironment.org/explore-topics/resource-efficiency/what-we-do/sustainable-consumption-and-production-policies>

<sup>2</sup> [https://www.unescwa.org/sites/www.unescwa.org/files/page\\_attachments/technical\\_paper\\_10-scp.pdf](https://www.unescwa.org/sites/www.unescwa.org/files/page_attachments/technical_paper_10-scp.pdf)

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.unescwa.org/sites/www.unescwa.org/files/1800279.pdf>

through North-South and South-South cooperation, building member States' capacity to access financial resources.

In order to prioritize the efforts to be pursued in the coming years, ETC held several meetings in late 2018 and early 2019 specifically; the 6th technical committee meeting, the 8th Board of Governors meeting and an expert group meeting on Green Technology Investment, focusing on SDG Goal 12 Sustainable Consumption and Production. Based on the outcomes of these meetings, ETC committed to mobilize its resources towards promoting, transferring, and scaling-up of innovative green technologies in two key sectors for the region; agriculture sector and conflict waste management sector.

## ***II. Context of ETC Expert Group Meeting (EGM)***

ETC work plan involves scaling up green technology development and applications towards the successful implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development “leaving no-one behind”. ETC promotes technologies that optimize the use of natural resources and support sustainable consumption and production in the Arab region. In particular, ETC concentrates on issues related to the efficient use of natural resources<sup>4</sup>, reduction of food waste and losses<sup>5</sup>, and environmentally sound management of wastes.<sup>6</sup>

Implementation of relevant green technologies in the agriculture sector can have a step change effect in the Arab region. In addition to helping mitigate the climate change issues and their impact on the environment, those technologies could improve the quality of life for millions of people, provide job opportunities for the large youth populations and empower women. Using the available technology transfer mechanisms and green funding opportunities can make those technologies accessible to the region.

For many Arab countries, conflict solid waste management is an extra challenge that needs to be dealt with, however, mostly without having the appropriate means, tools or skills. Using relevant green technologies can help reduce the environmental and health hazard impacts of such waste, whilst at the same time create value that can benefit the society economically through creating business opportunities for the youth and women in those affected countries.

Within the above context, ETC is organizing an EGM on promoting green technology use for the achievement of SCP in the agricultural and conflict solid waste management sectors will be conducted back-to-back with the 7<sup>th</sup> ETC Technical Committee Meeting.

## ***III. Objectives of the meeting***

The main objective of the EGM on “Green Technology Transfer, Adaptation and Investment Required for Implementing SDG 12: Sustainable Consumption and Production” is to promote regional cooperation in deployment of green technologies to achieve Goal 12. The meeting will have a special focus on technologies for agricultural / food sector (with its relation to other sectors including water & energy sectors), and conflict waste management sector in the Arab region. The meeting will also discuss green investments needed in the region to support the green transformation in these two sectors. The deliberations of this meeting will

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<sup>4</sup> SDG target 12.2: achieve the sustainable management and efficient use of natural resources.

<sup>5</sup> SDG target 12.3: halve per capita global food waste at the retail and consumer levels and reduce food losses along production and supply chains, including post-harvest losses.

<sup>6</sup> SDG 12.4: achieve the environmentally sound management of chemicals and all wastes throughout their life cycle, in accordance with agreed international frameworks, and significantly reduce their release to air, water and soil in order to minimize their adverse impacts on human health and the environment

encourage MCs to develop related regional /sub-regional project concepts for implementation of SDG 12 and in harmonization with countries NDCs. Thus, the specific objectives of the meeting are:

- Exchange experiences among Arab States on available green technologies for Agriculture Sector and Conflict Waste Management sector,
- Foster dialogue on opportunities and challenges for green technology related to the targeted sectors in the Arab region,
- Set the scene for project development to promote green investments and regional cooperation and coordination.

#### ***IV. Main input to the meeting***

- The meeting will be informed by three reports that are prepared by ESCWA and related to implementing Sustainable Development Goal 12. The three reports are:
  - Green Technology Transfer and Adaptation for Agriculture in the Arab Region;
  - Green Technology Transfer and Adaptation for Post-Conflict Solid Waste Management in the Arab Region;
  - Investment in Green Technology for Agriculture and Post-Conflict Solid Waste Management in the Arab Region
- CTCN Climate Smart Manual produced for Zimbabwe

The reports will be shared with confirmed participants ahead of the meeting.

#### ***V. Participants***

Participants in the meeting(s) include technical experts from the region in various sectors engaged in technology related fields, representing stakeholders from the academic and research institutions, agricultural, industrial, and public and private sectors. International experts and organizations will be also invited to participate in the meeting. Participants include members of the Coordination Committee of Industrial Research Centers that is organized by Arab Industrial Development and Mining Organization (AIDMO).

#### ***VI. Collaboration and Side Events***

The EGM and the Technical Committee Meeting are organized by ESCWA in collaboration with Climate Technology Centre and Network (CTCN), UN Technology Bank for the Least Developed Countries and AIDMO.

An interactive exhibition/display will be showcasing examples of green technologies that could be applied in member countries to enhance implementation of SDG 12. Space is available for institutions to display information if they request before end of June 2019.

In addition, the National Council for Scientific Research - Lebanon (CNRS-L) will have a side event to introduce their hosted initiative “DAWReK’N” “دوركُن” (Dynamic Actions for Women in Research and Knowledge) which aims to support Lebanese female researchers. Countries are encouraged to explore further the CNRS-L initiative and make use of their experiences.

## **VII. Organization of the meeting**

### **A. Date and venue**

The EGM and the 7<sup>th</sup> ETC Technical Committee Meeting will be held back-to-back during 29-31 July 2019 (the 7<sup>th</sup> ETC TCM will be held on 29 July, and the EGM will be held during 30-31 July 2019) at Kempinski Hotel in Amman, Jordan.

### **B. Language of the session**

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

### **C. Registration**

Invited experts to the two meetings are kindly requested to submit their completed meeting registration form (attached) before 28<sup>th</sup> June 2019.

### **D. Travel**

Air travel reservation and ticketing for sponsored participants will be arranged by ESCWA. 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 (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.

### **E. Accommodation**

Preferential rates for participants accommodation at Kempinski (Single Room–70 JOD, Double Room-75 JOD, Res: [Hasan.Alrantisi@kempinski.com](mailto:Hasan.Alrantisi@kempinski.com), rates are subject to 10% Service Charge and 16% Sales tax). Participants are requested to arrange their own accommodation.

### **F. Entry Visas**

Participants are requested to secure their own visas for travel to Jordan, as may be necessary. ESCWA can coordinate with the Government of Jordan to assist in obtaining entry visas only for those participants who are unable to secure visas in their home countries. Those who need assistance in this matter should send ETC a request with a color scanned copy of their national passport containing all the required information no later than 28<sup>th</sup> June 2019.

### **G. Correspondence**

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

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