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**Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA)****Economic Commission for Europe (ECE)**

Regional Workshop on: “Developing a Regional Renewable Energy Investment Pipeline”  
13 June 2017, in the framework of the Ministerial Conference and Eighth International  
Forum on Energy for Sustainable Development  
Astana, Kazakhstan, 11-14 June 2017

## Information Note

The Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA), in partnership with the UN Economic Commission for Europe (UN ECE), is organizing a regional workshop on “Developing a Regional Renewable Energy Investment Pipeline”, to be held on 13 June 2017, Astana, Kazakhstan. The workshop is organized within the framework of the Ministerial Conference and Eighth International Forum on Energy for Sustainable Development (11-14 June 2017). And is part of the activities included in a United Nations Development Account (UN DA) capacity-building project, led by ESCWA in partnership with UN ECE, aiming at enhancing renewable energy (RE) investments in Member countries in the context of sustainable development and climate change mitigation.

### I. Background Information

The development of sustainable energy systems is essential in implementing sustainable development strategies. The development of RE is one of the main targets of the Sustainable Development Goals as stated in SDG 7 of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development that was adopted by the General Assembly in September 2015 (Resolution A/RES/70/1). It is also one of the three pillars of the UN SE4All decade. The two frameworks call for a stronger deployment of RE projects, and a higher contribution of RE sources to the countries’ energy mix. Furthermore, economically viable RE solutions are increasingly becoming available, and countries, worldwide, have expressed their interest in adopting RE in power production and other sectors with high carbon dioxide emission levels.

Many developing countries, and countries with economies in transition, have set ambitious goals to increase the contribution of renewable energy in their energy mix to improve their energy security and to move towards more sustainable sources of energy, thus converging with the goals set by SDG7 and SE4All. However, most of these countries face serious challenges in setting up the appropriate implementation environment and attracting and mobilizing the adequate investments for their renewable energy projects. This is largely due to the lack of awareness and expertise about appropriate financing instruments for developing RE projects. This situation inhibits the formulation and development of renewable energy investment proposals that can meet the requirements of relevant financing institutions. Therefore, there is a need to develop skills at

the national level, both in public and private sectors, that would improve the capacity of relevant RE project investors in identifying, formulating, and setting up appropriate financing arrangements for their RE projects to present them to relevant financial institutions as bankable projects and subsequently implement them.

## **II. Scope:**

The present UN DA project, on “Promoting Renewable Energy Investments for Climate Change Mitigation and Sustainable Development”, is designed to work closely with RE policy makers, project developers, and other RE stakeholders in the ECE and ESCWA Member Countries, to carry out several capacity building activities related to promoting RE investments. These activities aims at:

- (a) Developing the skills of the public and private sectors at the national level to identify, develop and implement RE investment projects.
- (b) Providing assistance to authorities to introduce regulatory and institutional reforms needed to support these investment projects.
- (c) Enhancing the financing of renewable energy projects in selected countries.

Activities included case studies on the experience of policy reforms, regional trainings, workshops and seminars focusing on policy reforms and investment projects development.

RE project development was one of the main focuses of this UN DA, and was supported by developing a guidebook for project developers, a training seminar on: “Renewable Energy project development, finance and business planning”. A close individualized technical assistance was also provided to selected project developers from both ESCWA and ECE Member countries, to produce a RE project portfolio in each region.

The technical assistance helped the selected project developers to prepare feasibility studies for their RE projects in order to produce bankable proposals / business plans for these projects. The produced documents would be ready for submittal to domestic and international investors, banks, investment funds or other financial institutions, in order to instigate the realization of these RE projects.

Moreover, the workshop is organized in the framework of the Ministerial Conference and Eighth International Forum on Energy for Sustainable Development, which comprises two sessions on RE financing scheduled for the third day of the forum. One of the two sessions will address matchmaking between RE project developers and investors. Participants in the workshop will benefit from this valuable occasion to be briefed about available instruments for financing RE projects.

## **III. Objective and topics of the regional workshop**

The objective of this regional workshop is to focus on providing knowledge on RE investment projects, which covers the technical aspects related to RE investment proposals, as well as the regulatory and policy requirements, that project developers and relevant country officials would need to deal with when attracting and implementing investments based on foreign or national capitals.

Project developers participating in this workshop will discuss their projects with relevant stakeholders and experts in order to finalize their proposals. They will also have the opportunity to explore potential financing avenues for their projects, and establish initial contacts with potential investors. The workshop will consider over fifteen RE projects from both UN ESCWA and ECE Member Countries that would be the focus of the technical discussions. The workshop will also cover some related regulatory and institutional issues to help project developers deal with such matters when preparing for the implementation of their RE projects.

#### **IV. Focus Areas**

The regional workshop will focus on the following topics:

- a- Presentation of the global technico-economic trends for RE technologies: The impacts that such trends can have on RE investments in developing countries; and how to consider these trends when promoting investments in RE in both ESCWA and ECE Member countries.
- b- Presentation of ESCWA and UN ECE Project Development Portfolios, and panel discussions about the technical, regulatory and institutional issues that need to be addressed in order to complete the bankable proposals / business plans of the retained RE projects.
- c- Lessons learnt from previous experiences in developing RE investments in countries where there is an absence or lack of adequate policy and regulatory environments. This should help relevant stakeholders in such countries identify some of the issues they need to address when developing RE projects in such situations.
- d- Presentation of the regulatory and policy requirements for promoting RE investments at the national level: Adopted frameworks in selected ESCWA and ECE Member countries & outline of key regulatory & policy options. This will include panel discussions about the regulatory and institutional issues that need to be addressed to promote RE investments.

During the forum, and following the day of the workshop, a session is organized on matchmaking between RE project developers and potential financing parties & investors, and a second session is organized on RE financing.

#### **V. Participants**

In order to engage a dialogue between RE project developers and relevant national & international RE stakeholders and experts, invited participants will include project developers having benefited from the technical assistance activities, selected public institutions in charge of overseeing RE projects and activities in their respective countries, from both UN Regional Commissions. Other relevant stakeholders, including Members of the UN DA project Advisory Board, will also be invited.

#### **VI. Organization of the meeting**

The workshop will be held on 13 June 2017, in Astana, Kazakhstan, in the framework of the Ministerial Conference and Eighth International Forum on Energy for Sustainable Development. The other two RE sessions to be attended by participants will be held on 14 June 2017. The event will take place in the **Congress Centre** located in the **EXPO 2017 “Future Energy”** site.

Workshop materials will be presented in English language. Simultaneous translation from and to each of the following languages is available: Arabic, English and Russian.

#### **VII. Logistical information**

Each participant shall undertake the following preparation related to her/his participation: Registering at the official website of the Ministerial Conference and Eighth International Forum on Energy for Sustainable Development (<http://energyministerial.kz/>), securing hotel reservation, visa, and any other requirements for travelling to Kazakhstan.

Instructions on how to obtain their entry visa into Kazakhstan, as well as any special arrangements made by the organizers for hotel reservations, or further logistical information are provided through the indicated website. Any additional information will be provided to participants in due course.

## VIII. Correspondence

All correspondence related to the workshop is to be sent to either of the below addresses:

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