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

Focus Group Meeting on the “Regional Initiative for Promoting Small-Scale Renewable Energy Applications in rural areas of the Arab Region (REGEND)”

Tunis - Tunisia, 24 April 2019

### INFORMATION NOTE

The Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) is organizing, in collaboration with the National Agency for Energy Management (ANME), a Focus Group meeting with the aim of finalizing the assessment phase and selection of the local community where the project activities of the “Regional Initiative for Promoting Small-Scale Renewable Energy Applications in rural areas of the Arab Region REGEND” will be undertaken. The meeting will also put in place the Local Facilitating Team (LFT). The meeting will be held in Tunis, Tunisia on the 24<sup>th</sup> of April 2019 in ANME’s premises.

#### 1. Background information

The Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) is implementing the “Regional Initiative for Promoting Small – Scale Renewable Energy Applications in rural areas of the Arab region (REGEND)”. This regional initiative is a Sida-funded project and includes several partners in implementation such as League of Arab States (LAS), line ministries, local authorities, various regional organizations and Arab Women associations, UN organisations, local and regional NGOs, Research institutions and Academia.

This project aims to improve the livelihood, economic benefits, social inclusion and gender equality of Arab rural communities particularly marginalized groups, by addressing energy poverty, water scarcity and vulnerability to climate change and other natural resources challenges in four targeted countries, namely: Jordan, Lebanon and Tunisia.

This Focus Group meeting is intended to finalize the assessment phase and selection of the local community where the project activities will be undertaken as well as finalizing the LFT.

#### 2. Objectives and topics of the Focus Group Meeting

Based on the Baseline Study that was launched in March 2019 to address the socio economic and political dynamics and environmental consideration linked to productive activities by sector, access to energy services requirements and availability of sources of energy supply, and associated technologies needed to support resilience in rural community, the Focus Group meeting is organised by ESCWA, jointly with the ANME, to discuss and assess the results of the Baseline Study, the selection of the local community where the project activities will be undertaken, and the identification of the said activities. This will lead to the finalization of the selected local community as well as the finalization of the members of the LFT.

### 3. Participants

ESCWA and ANME will seek the participation in the Focus Group Meeting of representatives of the main stakeholders involved during the development of the project in Tunisia and engage in a discussion with them to finalize the selection of the local community where the project activities will be undertaken as well as the establishment of Local facilitating Team (LFT).

### 4. Date and Venue

The Focus Group Meeting will be held in Tunis on the 24<sup>th</sup> of April 2019 at ANME's premises. Registration is scheduled for 1:30 P.M. on the day of the meeting, and the opening session shall be at 2:00 P.M.

### 5. Language of the Focus Group Meeting

Seminar materials will be presented in either Arabic or French.

### 6. Correspondence

All correspondence related to the seminar is to be sent to either of the two addresses:

<b>Ms. Radia SEDAOU</b> Chief, Energy Section Sustainable Development Policies Division (SDPD) ESCWA United Nations House, Riad El-Solh Square, Beirut, Lebanon Tel.: + 961 1 978527 (Direct) Fax : + 961 1 981510/1/2 Email : <a href="mailto:sedaoui@un.org">sedaoui@un.org</a>	<b>Ms. Noha ZIADE</b> Administrative Assistant Sustainable Development Policies Division Riad El-Solh Square Beirut, Lebanon Tel : + 961 1 978 530 Fax : + 961 1 981 510/1/2 Email : <a href="mailto:ziaden@un.org">ziaden@un.org</a>
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