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

Committee on Energy  
Eleventh session  
Cairo, 14-16 May 2017

**Information note***1. Background*

The Committee on Energy was established pursuant to Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) resolution 204 (XVIII) of 25 May 1995, which was endorsed by Economic and Social Council resolution 1995/25 of 24 July 1995. The Committee on Energy comprises official representatives of ESCWA member States specialized in the field of energy. The decision to establish the Committee on Energy took into account the importance of the energy sector in the socioeconomic development in member States, especially given the various sources of energy in those countries. This requires close regional cooperation between member States to improve their capacity to manage energy sources in an efficient and effective manner by coordinating activities in the field of energy to achieve sustainable development.

The Committee on Energy holds its sessions biennially. It undertakes the following functions: (a) participating in the identification and formulation of priorities related to the ESCWA programme of work and medium-term plans in the field of energy; (b) monitoring progress achieved by member States in the field of energy; (c) monitoring activities undertaken by the ESCWA secretariat in the field of energy; (d) following up on regional and international conferences and member State participation therein, and coordinating efforts between member States to implement resolutions and recommendations.

The Committee on Energy will hold its eleventh session in Cairo, from 14 to 16 May 2017, under the auspices of the Egyptian Minister of Electricity and Renewable Energy.

*2. Objectives*

The eleventh session of the Committee on Energy aims to discuss issues related to sustainable energy in the Arab region, especially the energy-related Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the energy-water nexus, the impact of shale oil and gas on underground water, and Arab cooperation on tackling climate change. The session agenda also includes recurrent items on implementing the recommendations made by the Committee at its previous session and energy-related activities under the ESCWA programme of work, in addition to the proposed programme of work for the biennium 2018-2019 in the field of energy.

### *3. Parallel activities*

In parallel with the eleventh session of the Committee on Energy, ESCWA will hold an expert group meeting on the theme “Tracking progress towards sustainable energy – Horizon 2030 in the Arab region”, at the same venue on 14 and 15 May 2017, so as to discuss the methodology and indicators for implementing the sustainable energy action plan based on national data. Discussions will take into account the outcomes of Arab regional consultations to prepare an Arab monitoring report, as part of the United Nations Global Tracking Framework 2017 for implementing the energy-related SDGs by 2030. National, regional and international experts will participate in the meeting, in accordance with United Nations practices and procedures.

### *4. Documents*

Documents, reports and information for the eleventh session of the Committee on Energy are available from [www.unescwa.org/events/11th-session-escwa-committee-energy-0](http://www.unescwa.org/events/11th-session-escwa-committee-energy-0).

### *5. Agenda*

The provisional agenda for the current session includes items and annotations related to the above-mentioned issues, and will be presented to the session in document E/ESCWA/SDPD/2017/IG.2/L.1. The proposed organization of work is set out in document E/ESCWA/SDPD/2017/IG.2/L.2.

### *6. Participants*

Representatives of ESCWA member States and experts in the field of energy will participate in the session. Relevant international and regional organizations and institutions are also invited to attend the session as observers. Participating Governments shall be responsible for the travel and accommodation expenses of their representatives, in accordance with United Nations practice, which also applies to participating organizations.

### *7. Date and venue*

The eleventh session of the Committee on Energy will be held at the InterContinental Cairo Semiramis, in Cairo from 14 to 16 May 2017. Registration will commence at 9 a.m. on Sunday, 14 May 2017, and the opening session will convene at 9:30 a.m. on the same day. Session meetings will conclude at 3 p.m. on Tuesday, 16 May 2017.

### *8. Languages of the session*

Session proceedings will be in Arabic. English may be used, when necessary. Simultaneous interpretation from and into Arabic and English will be provided.

### *9. Accommodation and transportation*

The InterContinental Cairo Semiramis was selected for offering preferential rates to session participants.

### *10. Entry visas*

Participants may apply for an entry visa to Egypt from the Egyptian Embassy in their respective countries.

11. *Correspondence*

All session-related correspondence should be sent to the following ESCWA officials:

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