

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

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

Item 3 of the provisional agenda

**Provisional agenda and annotations**

1. Opening of the session.
2. Election of officers.
3. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.
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  - (a) Implementation of recommendations made by the Committee on Energy at its tenth session;
  - (b) Implementation of energy-related activities under the ESCWA programme of work;
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5. Sustainable energy in the Arab region:
  - (a) Energy-related Sustainable Development Goals;
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  - (c) Impact of shale oil and shale gas on underground water.
6. Arab cooperation on addressing climate change.
7. Proposed programme of work for the biennium 2018-2019 in the field of energy.
8. Establishment of an expert group on fossil fuels and climate change.
9. Current and future activities of the ESCWA Technology Centre.
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11. Date and venue of the twelfth session of the Committee on Energy.
12. Other matters.
13. Adoption of recommendations made by the Committee on Energy at its eleventh session.

## Annotations

### 1. Opening of the session

The eleventh session of the Committee on Energy will begin at 9.30 a.m. on Sunday, 14 May 2017, at the InterContinental Cairo Semiramis. The representative of the Ministry of Electricity and Renewable Energy of Egypt, the country that chaired the tenth session of the Committee on Energy, will give the welcome speech. The representative of the ESCWA secretariat will then give the opening speech.

### 2. Election of officers

Rule 18 of the Rules of Procedure of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia states: “Member States shall chair the sessions of the subsidiary bodies of the Commission on a rotating basis, in the Arabic alphabetical order employed by the United Nations.\* Unless the Commission decides otherwise, those bodies shall elect all their other officers”. Pursuant to that rule, Mauritania, upon which the rotation by alphabetical order has fallen, shall chair the eleventh session of the Committee on Energy, succeeding Egypt, which chaired the tenth session from 22 March 2015 to 14 May 2017, the date of the eleventh session. The Committee shall elect two vice-chairs and a rapporteur among the representatives of member States, according to the rotation by alphabetical order and in view of developments regarding participation in the current session.

### 3. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters

Rule 8 of the Rules of Procedure of the Commission, which apply to subsidiary bodies, states: “At the beginning of each session, once the Chair has assumed his/her duties in accordance with rule 12, the Commission shall adopt the agenda for that session on the basis of the provisional agenda”. Pursuant to that rule, the Committee will have before it the provisional agenda and annotations for this session in document E/ESCWA/SDPD/2017/IG.2/L.1. It will also have before it the proposed organization of work in document E/ESCWA/SDPD/2017/IG.2/L.2. The Committee shall adopt the agenda and the organization of work as submitted or in amended forms.

### 4. Review of implemented activities in the field of energy (E/ESCWA/SDPD/2017/IG.2/3)

Under this item, the following two documents and a presentation will be presented to the Committee:

#### (a) Implementation of recommendations made by the Committee on Energy at its tenth session (E/ESCWA/SDPD/2017/IG.2/3(Part I))

The report sets out the activities achieved in the field of energy pursuant to recommendations issued by the Committee at its tenth session (Amman, 22-23 March 2015).

Representatives of member States are invited to take note of the implemented activities, and provide suggestions and recommendations thereon.

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\* ESCWA member States in the Arabic alphabetical order are: Jordan, the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Tunisia, the Syrian Arab Republic, the Sudan, Iraq, Oman, Palestine, Qatar, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Egypt, Morocco, Saudi Arabia, Mauritania and Yemen.

(b) Implementation of energy-related activities under the ESCWA programme of work  
(E/ESCWA/SDPD/2017/IG.2/3(Part II))

The report reviews progress in implementing energy-related activities under the ESCWA programme of work since the tenth session of the Committee.

Representatives of member States are invited to take note of the report, and make comments and suggestions thereon.

(c) Implementation of technical cooperation activities with member States  
(E/ESCWA/SDPD/2017/IG.2/3(Part III))

The representative of the secretariat will present the technical cooperation activities with member States in the field of energy undertaken by ESCWA under the technical cooperation programme, as requested by member States, and the activities implemented pursuant to recommendations made by the Committee at its tenth session (Amman, 22-23 March 2015).

Representatives of member States are invited to take note of the implemented activities and make comments and suggestions thereon.

5. Sustainable energy in the Arab region  
(E/ESCWA/SDPD/2017/IG.2/4)

The Committee will have a general debate on sustainable energy in the Arab region on three main issues, based on the following documents:

(a) Energy-related Sustainable Development Goals  
(E/ESCWA/SDPD/2017/IG.2/4(Part I))

This document presents the energy-related Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), especially Goal 7 on ensuring access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all; its three targets on accessing modern energy services, increasing the share of renewable energy, and improving energy efficiency; and its means of implementation, in addition to other related SDGs. The documents sets out the indicators selected to monitor progress towards achieving these targets, efforts to collect related information, and associated challenges, especially in the Arab region.

Representatives of member States are invited to consider the document, and make comments and suggestions thereon.

(b) The energy-water nexus  
(E/ESCWA/SDPD/2017/IG.2/4(Part II))

The document highlights the importance of changing future outlooks on energy and water issues and the impact of climate change, the water-energy nexus, and the need to develop integrated energy and water policies for the medium and long terms, aimed at establishing sustainable patterns for energy and water use, selecting suitable technologies for local needs, and strengthening regional cooperation in this field. The document stresses that the efficient management of natural resources, in general, and water and energy resources, in particular, is key to achieving the 2030 Agenda in the Arab region. The document reviews ESCWA activities on building member States' capacity to adopt energy-water nexus policies to achieve the SDGs.

Representatives of member States are invited to take note of the document and make comments and suggestions thereon.

(c) Impact of shale oil and shale gas on underground water  
(E/ESCWA/SDPD/2017/IG.2/4(Part III))

The document highlights shale oil and gas as two non-traditional energy resources, found in many Arab countries according to studies. It sets out global experiences and those of some Arab countries in extracting shale oil and gas, and the challenges faced by those countries in that field, especially the impact on underground water, and the availability of water and a suitable environment. The document reviews supporting factors that decision-makers must evaluate before exploiting non-traditional resources.

Representatives of member States are invited to take note of the document and make comments and suggestions thereon.

6. Arab cooperation on addressing climate change  
(E/ESCWA/SDPD/2017/IG.2/5)

The document sets out the outcomes of the twenty-first (Paris, 2015) and twenty-second (Marrakech, Morocco, 2016) sessions of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. It also presents key areas of ESCWA focus in supporting cooperation between Arab countries on climate change issues from an energy perspective, taking into account the SDGs. It reviews ESCWA preparations for conferences held under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change to develop an Arab position, and increase the effectiveness of Arab participation in those conferences.

Representatives of member States are invited to take note of the document and make comments and suggestions thereon.

7. Proposed programme of work for the biennium 2018-2019 in the field of energy  
(E/ESCWA/SDPD/2017/IG.2/6)

The document presents the outputs and activities proposed to be implemented by ESCWA under its programme of work for the biennium 2018-2019 in the field of energy. The programme of work was prepared in line with subprogramme 1, "Integrated management of natural resources for sustainable development", of the revised strategic framework for the biennium 2018-2019, adopted by ESCWA at its twenty-ninth session (Doha, 13-15 December 2016).

Representatives of member States are invited to review the proposed programme of work in the field of energy and provide comments and suggestions thereon.

8. Establishment of an expert group on fossil fuels and climate change  
(E/ESCWA/SDPD/2017/IG.2/7)

The document contains an ESCWA proposal to establish an expert group on fossil fuels and climate change, in the context of presenting vital issues and studies to member States on achieving the SDGs in related fields.

Representatives of member States are invited to take note of the document and make comments thereon, for adoption by the Committee.

9. Current and future activities of the ESCWA Technology Centre  
Presentation

The representative of the secretariat will give a presentation on the goals and activities of the ESCWA Technology Centre of the Sustainable Development Policies Division, within the framework of achieving the energy-related SDGs in member States.

Representatives of member States are invited to make comments and suggestions on the Centre's activities.

10. Progress in implementing the energy-related Sustainable Development Goals in member States

General discussion

Under this item, participants will discuss member States' accomplishments in achieving the energy-related SDGS.

Representatives of member States are invited to make interventions on energy-related developments in their countries.

11. Date and venue of the twelfth session of the Committee on Energy

The Committee will consider the date and venue of its twelfth meeting, noting that the next session is expected to be held in March 2019. It will be convened in Beirut unless an invitation is extended by another member State to host it.

12. Other matters

This item shall cover any other matters that the members of the Committee may wish to discuss.

13. Adoption of the recommendations made by the Committee on Energy at its eleventh session

The Committee will consider the draft recommendations made at its eleventh session for discussion and adoption.

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