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

United Nations Development Account Project on Developing the Capacities of the Arab Countries for Climate Change Adaptation by Applying Integrated Water Resources Management Tools

Workshop on Climate Change Adaptation in the Environment Sector Using Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) and Ecosystem-based Management Tools  
Beirut, 22-24 March 2016

**INFORMATION NOTE**

**I. BACKGROUND**

The United Nations Development Account Project on Developing the Capacities of the Arab Countries for Climate Change Adaptation by Applying Integrated Water Resources Management Tools seeks to assist Arab States to build their capacity for climate change adaptation by applying integrated water resources management (IWRM) tools. This is sought by: (a) increasing understanding of climate change impacts on water resources and associated vulnerabilities to inform climate change adaptation policy-making; (b) providing a set of regionally appropriate IWRM tools for supporting climate change adaptation in five key sectors (agriculture, economic development, environment, health, and human settlements); and (c) enhancing knowledge of associated best practices in each of the five sectors that may be drawn upon to support the preparation of national and sector based adaptation and development plans. The project is led by the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) in cooperation with the United Nations Environment Programme Regional Office for West Asia (UNEP/ROWA), and is implemented in partnership with the Arab Centre for the Studies of Arid Zones and Dry Lands (ACSAD), the Arab Countries Water Utilities Association (ACWUA), Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) and the World Health Organization Centre for Environmental Health Activities (WHO/CEHA). This UNDA project builds on the results of the Regional Initiative for the Assessment of the Impact of Climate Change on Water Resources and Socio-Economic Vulnerability in the Arab Region (RICCAR) that is led by ESCWA and implemented by 11 League of Arab States, United Nations and expert organizations.

A training manual consisting of five complementary modules, each focused on one of the key sectors, was prepared by the respective organizations. This was agreed to during the inception meeting of the project that was held on 24 November 2013 in Amman. This regional workshop aims to present and test the draft module on the environment that was prepared by UNEP/ROWA in collaboration with ESCWA. The training module aims to build the capacity of Arab officials on the use of IWRM and ecosystem-based management (EBM) tools for climate change adaptation. This is done by drawing upon regional climate change assessment tools and demonstrating methods for considering and responding to the effect of projected climate change impacts on water-related ecosystem and biodiversity. The valuation of ecosystem services will also be introduced as a way for informing climate change adaptation in the Arab region. Adaptation measures and options related to the environment sector as well as areas for action at the national and regional levels are included in the module.

**II. OBJECTIVE**

The main objectives of the workshop are to:

- Present and discuss the draft module on agriculture with experts in the sector;
- Examine the linkages and integration between EBM and IWRM tools and their possible incorporation in regional and national policies and plans for climate change adaptation;
- Share case studies from Arab States and discuss their possible inclusion in the module; and
- Discuss the finalization of the module based on the input and feedback received from the workshop participants.

### **III. PARTICIPANTS**

This workshop will bring together representatives from the environment ministries of the 22 Arab States, experts from the Arab Integrated Water Resources Management Network (AWARENET), as well ESCWA and UNEP representatives.

### **IV. ORGANIZATION OF THE MEETING**

The workshop will be held at Le Commodore Hotel in Beirut. Arabic and English will be the working languages of the meeting. Simultaneous interpretation will be available

### **V. LOGISTICAL INFORMATION**

A block of rooms have been reserved by ESCWA at Le Commodore Hotel in Beirut at a preferential room rate of US\$ 88/night for a single room and US\$ 99/night for a double room; the daily rate includes a buffet breakfast, free Wifi internet, in-room coffee and tea facilities and all taxes.

Reservations shall be made through ESCWA and all participants are welcome to benefit from these preferential rates. All hotel expenses will be settled by the participants directly with the hotel.

### **VI. CORRESPONDENCE**

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