

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

Committee on Energy
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Item 4 of the provisional agenda

**Implementation of activities under the ESCWA programme plan,
of technical cooperation activities, and of recommendations
made by the Committee on Energy at its thirteenth session
to the ESCWA secretariat**

Summary

Since the thirteenth session of the Committee on Energy, held online on 20 and 21 September 2021, the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) has implemented various energy-related activities, in line with subprogramme 1 of the ESCWA programme plan on the integrated management of natural resources for sustainable development, and in response to requests for technical cooperation from member States or pursuant to recommendations made by the Committee at its thirteenth session.

The activities focused on building national capacity, disseminating knowledge, preparing studies and technical reports, and implementing projects funded by the United Nations Development Account and international organizations. The activities included events, held in collaboration with other United Nations regional commissions and international and regional organizations, on sustainable energy, extractive industries, hydrogen potentials, the circular carbon economy, and electricity grid interconnection.

The present document provides an overview of these activities. The Committee on Energy is invited to take note of the implemented activities and submit proposals to follow up on related efforts and outputs. Representatives of member States are invited to review activities implemented at the national level pursuant to recommendations made by the Committee to member States at its thirteenth session, which are set out in document [E/ESCWA/C.3/2021/8/Report](#) (p. 3, para. 3).

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Introduction

1. The Climate Change and Natural Resource Sustainability Cluster of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) implements subprogramme 1 of the ESCWA programme plan. Within this Cluster, the Energy Section carries out activities related to the energy field. Subprogramme 1 aims to support the advancement of climate action and the development of integrated and sustainable policies in the areas of water, energy and food security.

2. The activities carried out by the Energy Section since the thirteenth session of the Committee on Energy, held online on 20 and 21 September 2021, included organizing and participating in events at the national and regional levels (symposiums, workshops, expert meetings and conferences), implementing capacity-building programmes, and publishing reports, studies and technical bulletins in the fields of energy. Activities also included providing advisory services and technical support to member States, and working with them to formulate policies and measures to achieve sustainable and integrated management of energy resources. The Energy Section collaborated with the ESCWA Water Resources Section and the Food and Environment Policies Section on the energy-water-food nexus, and with other regional and international organizations in related fields, so as to achieve Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 7 on ensuring access to clean energy at affordable prices and other related Goals.

I. Transition programmes towards sustainable energy systems in the Arab region

3. ESCWA is implementing a programme entitled “Transitioning to sustainable energy systems in the Arab region” that aims to support member States’ energy transition through national, regional and global platforms for monitoring and capacity-building, by providing policy advice in reports, policy briefs and contributions to regional and global reports of the United Nations system and ESCWA member States, and by discussing priorities and challenges faced by the Arab region in international and regional forums.

A. Monitoring SDG 7

4. In May 2023, ESCWA issued a policy brief entitled “Progress made in the Arab region in the Decade of Sustainable Energy”, which reviewed progress in the Arab region and emphasized the possibility of further progress despite numerous challenges, such as supply chain disruptions, economic downturns, conflict and instability. In December 2022, ESCWA published a policy brief entitled “[Advancing SDG 7 in the Arab region](#)”, which highlighted progress in the field of energy in relation to SDG 7 indicators, and related policy actions.

5. ESCWA, as a partner in the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA) initiative that includes the [SDG 7 Technical Advisory Group](#), participated in the preparation of the 2022 and 2023 editions of Tracking SDG7: The Energy Progress Report. Also within this group, ESCWA participated in the preparation of a policy brief entitled “[Addressing energy’s interlinkages with other SDGs](#)” within the framework of the 2022 High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development. The policy brief stressed the importance of intensifying efforts to achieve SDG 7, the need for a comprehensive framework to address the interlinkages between energy and other SDGs, and regional priorities to accelerate a just, inclusive and equitable energy transition. ESCWA participated in the Advisory Group meetings that were held in preparation for the 2022 and 2023 High-level Political Forum.

6. ESCWA participated in a UN-Energy technical meeting on the theme “Joint action and partnerships, including energy agreements”, held on 22 March 2023. Participants agreed to strengthen joint procedures and partnerships after discussing the following areas of work: bridging the electricity access gap; accelerating clean cooking procedures; a just, inclusive and equitable energy transition; and energy agreements 2.0.

7. ESCWA participated in two sessions of the [2022 Sustainable Development Transformation Forum](#) on the theme “Accelerating the recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic and the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at all levels”, which was held in Incheon City, the Republic of Korea, from 25 to 28 October 2022. The topic of the first session was “Goal 7 - affordable and clean energy”, and the topic of the second was “Achieving SDGs in fragile contexts: countries in special situations, conflict and post-conflict countries”. In both sessions, ESCWA highlighted progress in achieving SDG 7 in the Arab region, and the impact of instability on the energy transition in conflict-affected countries.
8. ESCWA participated in a conference on the theme “[Ensuring access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy in the MENA region: beyond COP 27](#)”, which was organized by the College of Law at Qatar University and held virtually on 3 November 2022. ESCWA presented a paper at a session on the topic “Energy transition: the Middle East, North Africa and other regions”.
9. ESCWA held the [Arab Forum for Sustainable Development 2023](#) on the theme “Solutions and action” in Beirut from 14 to 16 March 2023. The Forum brought together Arab Governments and numerous stakeholders to address sustainable development priorities from a regional perspective, discuss progress, review national experiences, and strengthen the region’s voice at the High-level political forum on Sustainable Development. As part of the Forum’s activities, ESCWA organized a special session on the theme “Role of renewable energy in accelerating recovery in fragile and crisis-affected countries”, which highlighted solutions to resolve energy poverty, especially in places suffering from fragility, conflict and violence. ESCWA also organized, in partnership with the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), another special session on the theme “Enabling the circular carbon economy”, which addressed ways to implement the principles of the circular carbon economy in the Arab region in an equitable manner to enhance industrial sustainability and efficiency.
10. ESCWA participated in a [town hall meeting](#) organized by the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) on its work in the climate and sustainability space, which was held by the IEEE Young Professionals Climate and Sustainability Task Force on 8 April 2023. In its interventions, ESCWA highlighted the importance of enabling a just and inclusive energy transition in the Arab region.
11. At the [twenty-third Gender Summit](#), ESCWA participated in a session on the theme “Building multi-stakeholder partnerships to connect the challenges of gender equality and energy transition in a meaningful and effective way” (1 June 2023), in which ESCWA highlighted the energy transition and its interlinkages to gender empowerment.

B. Circular carbon economy

12. In June 2022, ESCWA, in collaboration with the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE), contributed to the preparation of a technology brief entitled “[Carbon neutral energy intensive industries](#)” on the best ways to transition energy-intensive industries to a carbon-neutral economy, while maintaining (or even improving) their global competitiveness. ESCWA, in collaboration with ECE, and within the framework of the twenty-seventh Conference of the Parties of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) (COP 27, Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt, 6–18 November 2022) organized a [side event](#) on the theme “Enabling the circular carbon economy: upscaling regional cooperation for sustainable development”. Participants discussed the policy brief and how to implement its recommendations in energy-intensive industries. ESCWA and ECE will continue to provide a neutral platform for inclusive and transparent dialogue, the exchange of best practices and lessons learned, and consensus-building on effective approaches.
13. ESCWA attended the [T20 Indonesia Summit 2022](#), which was held in Bali, Indonesia, on 5 and 6 September 2022. ESCWA participated in a session on the theme “Promoting the global circular carbon economy”, organized by the King Abdullah Petroleum Studies and Research Center (KAPSARC) and the Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia. In its intervention, ESCWA presented the role of the

circular carbon economy, emphasizing its importance for a just transition in the field of energy and carbon neutrality.

14. In September 2022, ESCWA, in collaboration with UNIDO, contributed to the preparation of the [report of the regional preparatory meeting for the African Group on global consultations on circular economy 2022–2023](#). ESCWA participation focused on the importance of converting waste from extractive industries into sustainable and commercially viable products, and on how Government intervention contributed to creating enabling environments for the private sector through policies.

15. At the [2021 High-level Dialogue on Energy](#), which was held online under the auspices of the General Assembly of the United Nations from 22 to 24 September 2021, ESCWA played a key role in organizing panel discussions and side events on an inclusive energy transition. ESCWA, in collaboration with the Carnegie Climate Governance Initiative, ECE, the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), the United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) and the International Energy Forum for Sustainable Development, organized a side event on the theme “[Challenges and opportunities for harnessing climate and SDG synergies: the role of carbon dioxide removal](#)”. The event highlighted the essential role played by the United Nations Regional Commissions in bringing together various actors and addressing gaps in SDG implementation. Participants stressed the importance of managing carbon dioxide removal and the circular carbon economy as an opportunity to align regional and international efforts, and to promote a cross-sectoral approach.

16. Within the framework of a regional cooperation initiative on the circular carbon economy, led by Saudi Arabia, ESCWA participated in the initiative’s first workshop on energy efficiency, held on 9 March 2023, to support the dissemination of the initiative’s framework. ESCWA also participated in a second workshop on carbon capture, use and storage on 8 June 2023, at which it presented the regional perspective on this issue.

C. Hydrogen

17. In May 2022, ESCWA published a report entitled “[Potential blue and green hydrogen developments in the Arab region](#)”, which focused on current and planned developments in the hydrogen sector in the region, and explored the main challenges and opportunities for hydrogen production and its use to support the region’s energy transition under the 2030 Agenda. The report also presented recent decisions taken by several countries to implement goals related to reaching net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050. In this context, ESCWA, in partnership with the International Energy Agency and in collaboration with KAPSARC, the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA), the Arab Petroleum Investments Corporation (APICORP) and Petroleum Development Oman, held a [webinar](#) on potential blue and green hydrogen developments in Arab countries on 14 December 2021. Participants discussed the interconnections between hydrogen and the SDGs, and proposed recommendations that feed into ESCWA activities aimed at combating climate change and achieving the energy transition.

18. Within the framework of a [high-level dialogue on green hydrogen](#), held by the Regional Center for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency and the Friedrich Ebert Foundation on 4 October 2021, ESCWA participated in a session on the theme “Opportunities and challenges for green hydrogen”, which highlighted the importance of regional cooperation and integration in the economic, social, environmental, financial, sectoral and technological fields, so as to benefit from opportunities offered by green hydrogen in enabling a just and inclusive energy transition.

19. As a member of the international fuel advisory board for the MENA region, ESCWA contributed to the preparation of a study published by the Wuppertal Institute for Climate, Environment and Energy entitled “[Roadmaps for the generation of sustainable synthetic fuels in the MENA region for the decarbonisation of traffic in Germany](#)”. The study provided guidance for projects that view the region as a major potential trading

partner for hydrogen and its downstream products, and that have the ability to make decisions about the long-term use of resources with greater confidence based on research findings.

20. At the [Global Clean Energy Action Forum](#), ESCWA participated in a seminar on the theme “Electrical interconnection market and electricity market in the MENA region”, held on 21 December 2021. ESCWA highlighted the importance of regional electrical interconnection in the Arab region to enable the accelerated growth of electricity generated from renewable energy and green hydrogen.

21. ESCWA participated virtually in a [study day on the theme “Green hydrogen and its potential to reduce greenhouse gases”](#), held in Algiers on 15 November 2022. ESCWA gave a presentation on the opportunities and challenges of hydrogen in the context of a circular carbon economy, and on the link between low-carbon hydrogen and the SDGs.

D. Water-energy-food nexus

22. As part of the activities of the first Global Symposium on Sustainable Water and Energy Solutions, which was held in Brazil and Paraguay from 13 to 15 June 2022, ESCWA organized, in collaboration with the Sustainable Water and Energy Solutions Network and DESA, a side event on the theme “[Energy deal of the Sustainable Water and Energy Solutions Network](#)”.

23. Within the framework of the Global Crisis Response Group on Food, Energy and Finance, established by the Secretary-General of the United Nations in response to the war in Ukraine, and as part of regional commissions’ inputs in the weekly briefing to the Executive Office of the Secretary-General, during the period March-July 2022, ESCWA provided weekly updates on energy prices and supply restrictions in the Arab region, as part of the energy workstream. In 2022, ESCWA, in collaboration with the Food and Agriculture Organization, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the World Food Programme, contributed to a policy brief entitled “[Impacts of the war in Ukraine on the Arab region](#)”, which covered the war’s implications for the energy sector in the Arab region.

24. At the [first Global Symposium on Sustainable Water and Energy Solutions](#), ESCWA participated as a speaker in a session on the theme “Sustainable water and energy solutions and water case studies”, which highlighted energy challenges and need for sustainable solutions at the global and regional levels. ESCWA also participated as a speaker in a session on the theme “Sustainable water and energy solutions – social interlinkages”, which addressed the interlinkages between water, energy and social issues.

25. ESCWA, in collaboration with ECE, produced a brochure entitled “[Tools for the water-energy nexus](#)”, which focused on the importance of the nexus approach.

E. Mitigating the effects of climate change

26. At the [MENA Climate Week 2022](#), which was held for the first time in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, from 28 to 31 March 2022, ESCWA stressed the importance of developing green economy strategies and adopting policies that supported sustainable and responsible practices. In partnership with the World Bank and the Arab Youth Climate Movement Qatar, ESCWA organized a session on the theme “Role of youth in a just and inclusive transition to renewable energy systems in the Arab region”, which addressed strengthening the capacity of young professionals in the renewable energy sector through the Regional Initiative to Promote Small-Scale Renewable Energy Applications in Rural Areas of the Arab Region ([REGEND](#)). ESCWA, in partnership with UNEP, organized a session on the theme “Transformative climate action through digitization: blockchain technologies”, which highlighted blockchain innovation efforts for climate action in the MENA region and the challenges and opportunities for scaling up the application of this technology.

27. ESCWA organized the [Arab Regional Forum on Climate Finance](#), held in Beirut on 15 September 2022, as part of preparations for COP 27. The Forum addressed Arab countries’ needs in financing climate action to

ensure water, energy and food security in the light of changing climate conditions. ESCWA and the other United Nations regional commissions launched the [Compendium of Climate-Related Initiatives: Opportunities for climate finance and investments on the SDGs](#) at COP 27 in November 2022.

28. ESCWA contributed to the following events at [COP 27](#), which was held in Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt, from 6 to 18 November 2022:

- Accelerating SDG7 action: Implementing the UN-Energy Plan of Action Towards 2025 in support of the Global Roadmap for Accelerated SDG7 Action and net-zero emissions (organized by UN-Energy).
- [Empowering vulnerable populations and enterprises to accelerate the adoption and lead the implementation of the climate agenda in developing countries](#) (organized by ESCWA and the Islamic Development Bank).
- Socioeconomic impact of energy transition: Egypt and Southeast Asia (organized by IRENA).
- Sustainable water and energy solutions supporting climate change and biodiversity objectives through innovation and clean technologies (organized by DESA).
- Road to net zero: regional and global prospects (organized by KAPSARC).
- Accelerating circularity as a holistic response to the triple planetary crisis: the economic case (organized by ESCWA, the Partnership for Action on Green Economy, the Green Growth Knowledge Partnership, UNEP, the International Labour Organization (ILO), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), UNIDO, the United Nations Institute for Training and Research, ECE, the United Nations Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States, and the Sustainability Pledge).
- A global sustainability framework for critical raw materials required for low-carbon transitions (organized by ECE, ECA, ESCAP, ECLAC, ESCWA, UNEP and UNDP).
- High-level green hydrogen panel discussion for the MENA region (organized by ESCWA and the Regional Center for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency).
- MENA Europe Future Energy Dialogue – Enhancing MENA Europe regional dialogue (organized by the German Agency for International Cooperation).
- Seminar on global energy interconnection pathway to carbon neutrality: the road to global carbon neutrality (organized by the Global Energy Interconnection Development and Cooperation Organization (GEIDCO) and UNFCCC).
- Water desalination with renewable energies – challenges and opportunities in Arab countries (organized by the Regional Center for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency and the League of Arab States).
- How the Middle East Green Initiative and regional collaboration can serve the region in tackling climate challenges (organized by Saudi Arabia).
- Accelerating SDG progress in the Arab region (organized by the United Arab Emirates).

F. Providing technical services to the Executive Bureau of the Arab Ministerial Council for Electricity and its technical committees concerned with electricity, renewable energy and energy efficiency

29. ESCWA participated as an observer in the activities of the Committee of Experts on Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency and the Committee of Electricity Experts of the Arab Ministerial Council for Electricity of the League of Arab States.

30. On 15 December 2021, ESCWA attended as an observer the [fourth joint meeting](#) of the Committee of Electricity Experts and the Committee of Experts on Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency of the Arab Ministerial Council for Electricity of the League of Arab States. ESCWA also attended as an observer the fifth joint meeting of the committees on 7 March 2022.

31. ESCWA attended as an observer the seventh general conference of the Arab Union of Electricity and [the fourteenth session of the Arab Ministerial Council for Electricity](#), held in Doha from 20 to 22 March 2022. ESCWA took the initiative to translate from English into Arabic the operating regulations of Arab networks related to the Arab Common Market for Electricity.

32. ESCWA participated in the thirteenth (30 October 2022) and fourteenth (28 November 2022) meetings of the Working Group on the Review of the Terms of Reference of the Study of the Arab Electric Interconnection and the Assessment of the Exploitation of Natural Gas for Electricity Exports. In both meetings, ESCWA provided samples of its translation work. It was agreed that the translation would be completed and reviewed after receiving comments from the study teams.

33. On 2 March 2023, ESCWA attended as an observer [the fourteenth meeting of the Committee of Electricity Experts of the Arab Ministerial Council for Electricity of the League of Arab States](#). The recommendations emanating from the meeting included thanking ESCWA for preparing a draft translation in Arabic of network operating regulations.

G. Collaboration with international and regional organizations and research centres

34. ESCWA collaborated with the other United Nations regional commissions and several international organizations to convene the [twelfth International Forum on Energy for Sustainable Development](#) (hybrid, 1 September to 30 October 2022).

35. On the sidelines of the [Global South-South Development Expo 2022](#), held in Bangkok from 12 to 14 September 2022, ESCWA, in collaboration with ECE and ESCAP, organized a meeting on the theme [“Overcoming challenges and exploring opportunities for sustainable energy transition through South-South cooperation”](#). ESCWA highlighted the importance of reviewing the experiences of South countries in the energy sector’s recovery after the COVID-19 pandemic, and of the role of economic cooperation between South countries in the transition to sustainable energy.

36. ESCWA participated in the [forty-fourth International Association for Energy Economics International Conference](#) on the theme [“Pathways to a Clean, Stable and Sustainable Energy Future”](#), held in Riyadh from 4 to 9 February 2023, and hosted by KAPSARC and the Saudi Association for Energy Economics. ESCWA contributed to the preparation of the technical agenda, to the peer review process of submitted papers, and to the facilitation of a session in Arabic.

37. At the [Stakeholder Forum for a Sustainable Future](#), ESCWA participated in webinar No. 5 on the theme [“SDGs 9 and 10 – Industry, innovation and infrastructure, and reduced inequalities”](#), held on 30 March 2023, of a series of webinars entitled [“Countdown to the 2023 SDG Summit”](#) supported by DESA, UNEP and the European Union. ESCWA highlighted key linkages between energy, migration, climate action and conflict.

38. ESCWA collaborated with the Jordanian Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources, the German Government, the European Commission, the International Energy Agency, the International Renewable Energy Agency, the League of Arab States, the Regional Center for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency, the Mediterranean Energy Observatory, and the Union for the Mediterranean to organize the [MENA Europe Future Energy Dialogue](#) (Sweimeh, Jordan, 8–9 June 2022). ESCWA participated in a ministerial panel discussion on the potential mutual benefits for Europe and the Arab region and their relationship in the field of energy, stressing the importance of finance for a just and inclusive energy transition and the need for Europe

to fulfil its commitments in climate finance to support developing countries in their efforts towards sustainable climate action. On the sidelines of the dialogue, ESCWA, the League of Arab States and other partners discussed possibilities for regional integration and ways to accelerate progress in implementing SDG 7. At the [thirteenth session of the IRENA Assembly](#) (Abu Dhabi, 13–15 January 2023), ESCWA participated in preparations for the 2023 MENA Europe Future Energy Dialogue, and discussed the development of a MENA Europe Future Energy Dialogue initiative to accelerate projects and support the implementation of decarbonization projects.

39. ESCWA, in partnership with the Council of Engineers for the Energy Transition, and under the auspices of the United Nations Secretary-General and UNIDO, co-organized the Council’s regional consultation for West Asia on 2 May 2023, at which ESCWA identified engineering challenges and obstacles related to clean energy, and the main mechanisms to involve the Council in such initiatives in the future in the event of technical challenges.

40. Within the framework of the [Global South-South Development Expo 2022](#) on the theme “Advancing South-South and Triangular Cooperation for Sustainable COVID-19 Recovery: Towards a Smart and Resilient Future”, ESCWA, in collaboration with ECE and ESCAP, organized a side event on the theme “[Exploring sustainable energy transition through South-South cooperation](#)” (13 September 2022). The event provided an opportunity for Governments, international organizations and academia to review the post-COVID-19 recovery experiences of countries in the Global South in the energy sector, and to highlight the key role that South-South economic cooperation could play in the transition to sustainable energy.

41. Within the framework of the eleventh International Forum on Energy for Sustainable Development, and as part of the activities of a project funded by the United Nations Development Account entitled “Global Initiative towards post-Covid-19 resurgence of the micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) sector”, ESCWA, in collaboration with ECE, organized a [regional workshop](#) on guidelines and best practices for MSMEs in sustainable resource management and critical raw material supply. Experiences were exchanged in implementing guidelines and best practices for MSMEs to ensure flexibility and progress towards the circular carbon economy within sustainable resource management and critical raw material supply chain solutions. ESCWA presented the repercussions of the COVID-19 pandemic for the Arab region, and the positive effects of [REGEND](#) activities on the resilience of MSMEs in rural areas. ESCWA also focused on circular carbon economy framework as an opportunity to boost economic activity and job creation.

II. Improving access to renewable energy in the Arab region

42. ESCWA is implementing a project entitled “Improving access to renewable energy in the Arab region”, which aims to strengthen opportunities for rural economic development by creating an enabling environment for the private sector and addressing energy access, gender equality and entrepreneurship, so as to invest in income-generating activities using renewable energy. The project works to build the capacity of officials in ESCWA member States to develop a policy framework and apply business models for the implementation of appropriate small-scale renewable energy technologies in productive sectors in rural areas. Project activities include the following: preparing and publishing a report entitled “Role of blockchain in the Arab sustainable energy transition”, which sets out best practices from around the world on the application of blockchain technology to increase the sustainability of the energy sector; issuing a report entitled “De-risking small-scale renewable energy in rural areas through microfinance and matchmaking”, which provides a set of financial and policy tools that can be used in the Arab region to de-risk investments in small-scale renewable energy in rural areas; and continuing the implementation of REGEND, and preparing and launching the initiative’s e-learning platform comprising six modules.

43. As part of the project, ESCWA organized an expert group meeting on the theme “[The role of blockchain in the Arab sustainable energy transition](#)” (online, 20 September 2022). Participants highlighted promising case studies, identified major obstacles, and discussed means of implementation. On 7 December 2022, as part of the eleventh International Forum on Energy for Sustainable Development, ESCWA held an expert group

meeting on the theme “[Microfinance and matchmaking to boost small-scale renewable energy in rural areas](#)”, which identified business models that could be applied to overcome barriers to the productive use of small-scale renewable energy in the Arab region. The outcomes of the meeting will be included in a technical report to be published in 2023.

44. Under REGEND, ESCWA continued to implement the initiative’s activities, funded by the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency, in collaboration with the League of Arab States (represented by its Department of Energy), the National Agency for Energy Management of Tunisia, and the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources of Jordan. Since September 2021, REGEND has included the following activities:

- Implementing and operating 23 [small-scale renewable energy field projects](#) in Jordan, Lebanon and Tunisia, including a project in Akkar Atika in Lebanon, where 400 small-scale solar energy systems were installed to meet the basic needs of indoor lighting in 400 homes that lacked energy, and whose residents belonged to marginalized groups suffering from severe poverty.
- Preparing and launching an [e-learning course](#) as part of the activities of the Arab Forum for Sustainable Development 2023, organized by ESCWA. The course consists of the following six units: renewable energy in rural areas; good practices in agriculture; rural development and women’s empowerment; food manufacturing; the water-energy-food nexus; and fertilization by irrigation. More than 900 people have registered for the course to date.
- Establishing a [gender and renewable energy network](#) of regional and international partners, aimed at monitoring and ensuring the long-term sustainability of the initiative’s impact. Network activities include the following: organizing events and meetings on renewable energy and rural development, with a focus on gender equality; holding training workshops to build the capacity of women in rural areas on energy, entrepreneurship, rural development, and best practices in productive activities; producing reports and publications focusing on women’s empowerment and gender equality through renewable energy; and establishing sustainable links with key stakeholders working in the field of renewable energy and rural development, including practitioners, research centres and academics.
- Publishing case studies on policies and on regulatory, institutional and financial frameworks needed to advance small-scale renewable technologies and their applications for rural development in [Jordan, Lebanon and Tunisia](#).
- Organizing a regional workshop on the theme “[Business models for the integration of renewable energy technologies into rural development](#)” (online, 5 October 2021) within the framework of the eleventh [International Forum on Energy for Sustainable Development](#), in partnership with the Self Employed Women’s Association. The workshop brought together regional and international partners in the fields of sustainable energy development, rural development and gender empowerment to discuss business models that integrate renewable energy technologies into rural development, with a focus on gender empowerment.
- Publishing the [Business Models Toolkit](#) aimed at developing policies, business models and solutions for small-scale renewable energy technologies that benefit rural communities.
- Organizing a regional workshop on the theme “[Policy toolkit as guidelines for policymakers to integrate small-scale renewable energy in rural development](#)” (online, 2 December 2021). The workshop focused on education as an empowerment factor for rural women and economic development, and established a framework for an Arab strategy on equitable access to renewable energy that takes into account climate change and food security.
- Publishing a [policy toolkit](#) for policymakers aimed at increasing the use of small-scale renewable energy technologies.

- Organizing three multi-stakeholder forums on the use of small-scale renewable energy technology to strengthen entrepreneurship and mainstream gender equality in productive sectors in rural areas in [Jordan](#) (23 November 2021), [Lebanon](#) (30 November 2021) and [Tunisia](#) (8 December 2021), as part of the activities of the eleventh International Forum on Energy for Sustainable Development. The forums presented good practices, success stories and lessons learned from the initiative in each country, and ways forward by building effective and sustainable partnerships for future coordination and collaboration. A strategic action plan was developed to benefit from renewable energy in achieving rural development, and practical projects were launched to raise awareness of these technologies and apply them in integrated sustainable development models to empower women and young people in rural areas.
- Convening a [steering committee meeting](#) for REGEND on 1 December 2021, which included the main partners in the initiative, to discuss lessons learned and the latest achievements in the countries targeted by the initiative, and review the results of the initiative and its impact on productive activities and the lives of beneficiaries.
- Preparing and publishing the [Social, Economic, and Environmental Impact Assessment Report of REGEND](#), which assessed the social, economic and environmental impact of the initiative's activities in rural communities, and presented the sustainable impact of the initiative on income-generating activities, energy consumption, women's empowerment and the environment.
- Preparing and publishing a [REGEND fact sheet](#) that includes the goals, pillars, achievements, conclusions and proposed future steps to complete REGEND activities and disseminate its integrated approach and business model.
- Participating in the activities of [MENA Climate Week 2022](#) (Dubai, United Arab Emirates, 28–31 March 2022) through a session on the theme “Role of young people in a just and comprehensive energy transition in the MENA region”. Participants discussed building capacity and policy coherence for green jobs, introducing children to renewable energy, and an upcoming REGEND activity related to strengthening the capacity of young professionals in the renewable energy sector by developing vocational curriculums to support young people's access to green jobs, such as solar and wind energy technicians who do not require university degrees.
- Participating in the activities of [Green Innovation Days 2022](#) (Beirut, 11–13 October 2022) organized by Berytech, through a session on the theme “Water-energy-food nexus models and best practices”, which highlighted the initiative's field achievements and its interlinkages with the SDGs, and the importance of developing integrated business models, such as REGEND, to achieve a circular carbon economy in a cleaner and more efficient way.
- Participating in the [Energy Strategies Summit 2022](#) (Beirut, 27–28 September 2022), at which the initiative's activities, approach and integrated business model were presented. The Summit also stressed the importance of collaboration between the public and private sectors to promote the advancement of sustainable energy in Lebanon and in the Arab region.
- Participating in a workshop on the theme “[Skills development for the clean energy transition in the MENA region](#)” (online, 15 March 2023), organized by the International Energy Agency. Participants learned about the integrated capacity-building programme, workshops and activities that were organized and implemented with partners, and the mechanism of studying, evaluating and identifying REGEND income-generating productive activities.
- Participating in the first [Multi-Stakeholders Consultation Meeting on the Water-Energy-Food-Ecosystems Nexus](#) within the framework of the “Global Environment Facility/UNEP MedProgramme: Enhancing Environmental Security” (Beirut, 24–25 August 2022). The meeting highlighted the achievements of the initiative from the perspective of the water-energy-food nexus, and its interlinkages with the other SDGs.

- Monitoring remotely 31 small-scale renewable energy field projects implemented in Jordan, Lebanon and Tunisia to ensure their proper operation and clean energy production, and coordinating with the projects' national partners in each country to follow up on the implementation and documentation of all inspection and maintenance activities so as to ensure the sustainability of the projects.
- Preparing the second Social, Economic and Environmental Impact Assessment Report of REGEND to update all data and information, and to continue assessing the social, economic and environmental impact of the initiative's activities in rural communities.
- Working with several donors, such as the Islamic Development Bank, the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development, the Sub-fund of the 2030 Agenda, ECE and the Rockefeller Foundation to mobilize resources by preparing and submitting project proposals aimed at disseminating the initiative's business model in member States, implementing projects and capacity-building programmes, and adopting REGEND-based regulatory and institutional tools and frameworks for policymakers.

45. At the thirteenth session of the IRENA Assembly, ESCWA participated as a speaker in a session on the theme "[Solar photovoltaic: a gender perspective](#)". Participants discussed the challenges faced by women entrepreneurs in the West Asia region in accessing finance, information, markets, technology, education and training within the renewable energy sector. ESCWA also participated in a high-level meeting on the theme "[Renewable energy compact for United Nations peacekeeping](#)", which provided an opportunity to discuss a strategy for aligning climate and development goals related to "greening" peacekeeping operations, and the development priorities of host communities.

III. Energy efficiency

46. Since the second half of 2018, ESCWA has implemented a project funded by the United Nations Development Account entitled "[Upscaling energy efficiency in residential and services sectors in the Arab region](#)", aimed at improving the ability of member States to efficiently use energy in the construction sector, enhance the implementation of energy efficiency programmes in residential and non-residential buildings, and pave the way for a regional initiative that strengthens energy efficiency programmes and measures in buildings in Arab countries. The project was completed in December 2021, and its activities included the following:

- Preparing and publishing four guides on the rationalization of energy consumption in homes to inform families of good practices that must be taken into account when selecting and using household equipment (in [Jordan](#) and [Tunisia](#)), and when building or renovating their homes (in [Jordan](#) and [Tunisia](#)); and providing them with instructions and advice to rationalize their energy consumption.
- Holding a national workshop on the theme "[E-tiquette: energy labelling household appliances in Tunisia](#)" (Tunis, 30 November 2021), in collaboration with the National Agency for Energy Management. The workshop presented a digital platform aimed at supporting the process of energy classification and labelling of household electrical appliances in Tunisia, focusing on refrigerators, air conditioners and washing machines. The platform allows for the integration of more devices in the future. It also includes units to generate statistics on the development of the home electrical appliances market in terms of energy efficiency.
- Organizing a [regional webinar to present the project's results](#) (online, 20–21 December 2021), in collaboration with the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources of Jordan and the National Agency for Energy Management of Tunisia. This webinar was the final event of the project after completing its activities in the two countries. Participants reviewed the project's activities and achievements, and discussed lessons learned for future cooperation activities.

47. Pursuant to a [joint declaration](#) signed by ESCWA and the Islamic Development Bank on 4 October 2018, and within the framework of this collaboration, the 2021 [Toolkit for Energy Efficiency Financing Instruments for Buildings in the Arab Region](#) was prepared and published, along with a related [brochure](#) and [factsheet](#). The Toolkit provides information to policymakers and other stakeholders on several building energy efficiency financing tools from around the world, aimed at guiding the design and development of financing instruments specific to the Arab region. On 13 December 2021, ESCWA organized a [webinar](#) on the theme “Financing energy efficiency programmes for buildings” to inform participants about effective financing tools to expand energy efficiency programmes in national construction sectors, and to include the implementation of these programmes in national development plans. The webinar shed light on strategies that could contribute to overcoming barriers impeding the expansion of energy efficiency programmes.

48. As part of the activities of the [eighth Multi-stakeholder Forum on Science, Technology and Innovation for the Sustainable Development Goals](#) (online, 3–4 May 2023), organized by ECE, ESCWA participated in a breakout session on the theme “[Enabling systemic energy efficiency improvements and accelerating implementation of the 2030 Agenda through the energy system digitalization](#)”. ESCWA presented examples of initiatives that are being implemented in the Arab region and globally, including on decentralized project financing, distributed energy resources management, trade, and transparent tracking of energy certificates. ESCWA also identified the main challenges facing the adoption of blockchain technology for the transition of Arab countries to sustainable energy, and presented conclusions and recommendations to overcome those challenges.

IV. Working Group on Transforming the Extractive Industries for Sustainable Development

49. Recommendation (i) made by the Committee on Energy at its thirteenth session stipulates “broadening the work of the Group of Experts on Fossil Fuels to include extractive industries, in support of the global Working Group on Extractive Industries”. ESCWA, as an active member of the Working Group on Transforming the Extractive Industries for Sustainable Development, contributed to implementing the recommendation by coordinating and organizing meetings of the Working Group, developing an action plan for the Working Group, preparing and publishing the Working Group’s [website](#), and publishing a periodic report entitled “Progress report to the Executive Office of the Secretary-General of the United Nations” on 10 October 2022. The report outlined support provided by United Nations organizations, including ESCWA, to member States in the field of extractive industries. ESCWA also collaborated with a working group led by UNEP and UNDP to develop an initiative to harness energy transition-critical minerals for sustainable development in least developed countries and landlocked developing countries. In this context, and on the sidelines of the [fifth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries](#) (Doha, 5–9 March 2023), ESCWA participated in a briefing session for resident coordinators, at which the initiative’s concept note was presented.

50. On 6 December 2022, ESCWA organized an expert group meeting of the Working Group on Transforming the Extractive Industries for Sustainable Development on the theme “[Minerals and raw materials in support of energy transition](#)”, at which the main challenges and potential opportunities for developing a sustainable mining sector in the Arab region were discussed. The meeting outcomes will be included in a technical report to be published in 2023. ESCWA is preparing a technical report entitled “Role of Minerals and Raw Materials in Supporting the Energy Transition in the Arab Region”, which will provide an overview of opportunities and challenges in the energy sector, and a set of strategic pillars and policy recommendations to support the extraction of key minerals for the energy transition in the region.

51. ESCWA participated in the activities of the [Resource Management Week 2023](#), organized by ECE (Geneva, 25–28 April 2023), and in the fourteenth session of the Expert Group on Resource Management through a session on the theme “[Collaboration for critical raw materials: activities of the Working Group on transforming the extractive industries for sustainable development](#)”. ESCWA briefed participants on developments in the renewable energy and hydrogen sectors in the Arab region, the prominent role played by

critical raw materials in the energy transition, the activities of ESCWA within the aforementioned Working Group, and key recommendations to enhance collaboration in the area of critical raw materials and in the role of the Working Group.

52. ESCWA participated in a [virtual workshop](#) organized by the Asian Development Bank on the theme “Energy transition from coal to a low-carbon future” (20–22 February 2023). ESCWA made a presentation on the theme “Transforming extractive industries: the role of the green and circular carbon economy” that highlighted the role of extractive industries in a just and inclusive global energy transition, the importance of managing economic, financial, social and environmental risks for extractive industries, the circular carbon economy approach as an integrated carbon management approach to support the transition to sustainable energy, and key policy recommendations.

V. Technical cooperation activities

53. ESCWA provides advisory services and technical support to member States in energy-related areas of national priority, based on their official requests. Its support activities include preparing studies and analyses, monitoring and evaluation, reviewing proposals for policies, strategies and laws and commenting thereon; and organizing events at the national or regional levels.

54. In this context, following a request by Kuwait in May 2021, ESCWA prepared a strategic framework to enable a just and comprehensive transition in the field of energy for Kuwait, which it presented in May 2022. Key pillars for sustainable energy systems were identified using the circular carbon economy framework as a guideline for shaping sustainable energy pathways. A road map was also developed to highlight key actions in various energy-intensive sectors in the short, medium and long terms within the following four tracks: energy efficiency and environmental standards; energy mix diversification; economic diversification and job creation; and carbon management techniques and pathways to net zero.

55. ESCWA participated in the [first Conference on Investment in Renewable Energies and Electricity in the Syrian Arab Republic](#) (Damascus, 15–16 May 2022). During the second session on the theme “Countries’ experiences in developing the sector and benefiting from private investment”, ESCWA briefed participants on experiences, challenges, solutions and lessons learned related to the reform of the electricity and renewable energy sectors.

56. ESCWA collaborated with the Ministry of Economy of Oman on the issue of green economy. ESCWA reviewed a green economy policy paper, and provided comments thereon and proposals for improvement.

57. ESCWA participated in a meeting with the Ministry of Energy and Water of Somalia and the Regional Center for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency on 16 February 2023. The Ministry gave a presentation on the energy sector in Somalia, its developments and future plans, and requested technical assistance within the framework of those plans. ESCWA briefed the Ministry on potential areas of collaboration, and on the official mechanism for requesting technical cooperation services.

58. ESCWA participated in a retreat organized by the United Nations in Algeria from 22 to 26 January 2023. ESCWA stressed the role of extractive industries in the energy transition, and the importance of coordination between regional organizations.

59. ESCWA participated in the activities of the [Al-Rafidain Forum 2022](#) on the theme “The world is changing”, organized by the Al-Rafidain Center for Dialogue (Baghdad, 26–29 September 2022). ESCWA highlighted the main energy trends in the Arab region, and major challenges and opportunities for energy efficiency and renewables in various sectors.

60. ESCWA received a request from the Ministry of Energy of Saudi Arabia to prepare a study, in partnership with KAPSARC, on the role of liquefied petroleum gas as a clean fuel source.

61. Under **REGEND**, ESCWA is continuing to implement technical cooperation activities in Jordan, Lebanon and Tunisia in the areas of renewable energy, green jobs and the water-energy-food nexus. These activities are also being expanded to include Algeria through a capacity-building programme.

62. As part of its work on reform, recovery and reconstruction in Lebanon, ESCWA is co-leading a working group specialized in the electricity sector, which provides technical advice towards reforming the electricity sector in Lebanon. ESCWA co-organized a working group meeting on 13 October 2022, at which the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and risks of the electricity sector were discussed. ESCWA stressed the key role of small-scale decentralized renewable energy, especially in rural areas, in responding to the energy crisis in Lebanon.

VI. Implementation of recommendations made by the Committee on Energy at its thirteenth session

63. At its thirteenth session, the Committee on Energy made recommendations to the ESCWA secretariat to guide its work in the period 2021–2023. The table below lists the recommendations and the activities implemented pursuant to them, without details, as these activities have already been outlined in the previous sections of the present document.

Recommendation	Related activities
<p>(a) Continue studying issues related to sustainable energy management, the optimal use of natural resources, and the opportunities available in promising sectors at the national and regional levels, so as to achieve the SDGS, support Arab countries in their plans to recover from the COVID-19 pandemic, and enable them to restore the momentum witnessed in the renewable energy sector and in the efficient use of energy in the region in recent years.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The 2022 and 2023 editions of the Tracking SDG7: The Energy Progress Report (para. 5). • Policy brief entitled “Addressing energy’s interlinkages with other SDGs” (para. 5). • Meetings of the SDG 7 Technical Advisory Group within the framework of the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development in 2022 and 2023 (para. 5). • The IEEE town hall and its work on climate and sustainability (para. 10). • A session on the theme “Sustainable water and energy solutions and water case studies” and a session entitled “Sustainable water and energy solutions – social interlinkages” (para. 24). • A seminar on “SDGs 9 and 10 – Industry, innovation and infrastructure, and reduced inequalities” within a series of webinars entitled “Countdown to the 2023 SDG Summit” (para. 37). • A side event on the theme “Exploring sustainable energy transition through South-South cooperation” (para. 40). • The Toolkit for Energy Efficiency Financing Instruments for Buildings in the Arab Region, and a related booklet and factsheet (para. 47). • A webinar on the theme “Financing energy efficiency programmes for buildings” (para. 47).

Recommendation	Related activities
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A breakout session on the theme “Enabling systemic energy efficiency improvements and accelerating implementation of the 2030 Agenda through the energy system digitalization” (para. 48).
<p>(b) Build the capacity of member States in formulating sustainable energy policies and addressing vulnerabilities, especially in diversifying the energy mix, improving the efficiency of its use, identifying new renewable energy uses, developing technologies that apply the principles of the circular carbon economy, and integrating them in nationally determined contributions.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A report of the regional preparatory meeting for the African Group on global consultations on circular economy 2022–2023 (para. 14). • A study entitled “Roadmaps for sustainable synthetic fuel generation in the MENA region” (para. 19). • A session on the theme “Transformative climate action through digitization: blockchain technologies” (para. 26). • A report entitled “Blockchain in the sustainable energy transition” (para. 43). • An expert group meeting on the theme “Blockchain in the sustainable energy transition” (para. 43). • A virtual workshop organized by the Asian Development Bank on the theme “Energy transition from coal to a low-carbon future” (para. 52). • A strategic framework to enable a just and comprehensive energy transition for Kuwait (para. 54). • Review of a green economy policy paper for the Ministry of Economy in Oman (para. 56). • A meeting with the Ministry of Energy and Water of Somalia and the Regional Center for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (para. 57). • A study on the role of liquefied petroleum gas as a clean fuel source (para. 60). • Co-leading a working group specialized in the electricity sector as part of work on reform, recovery and reconstruction in Lebanon (para. 62).
<p>(c) Focus on studying the priority areas of the energy transition in the Arab region, including maximizing the use of local energy resources; storing energy and hydrogen; linking the expansion of all types of hydrogen energy to water resources; developing electric transport</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A report entitled “Potential blue and green hydrogen developments in the Arab region” (para. 17). • A webinar on potential blue and green hydrogen developments in Arab countries (para. 17).

Recommendation	Related activities
<p>and smart grids, and regional and international electricity interconnection projects; and establishing flexible, safe and fair mechanisms for energy transition, in coordination with international organizations, to mitigate the negative effects of this transition on Arab countries.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A seminar on the theme “Electrical interconnection market and electricity market in the MENA region” (para. 20). • A study day on the theme “Green hydrogen and its potential to reduce greenhouse gases (para. 21).
<p>(d) Mainstream the work model of the Regional Initiative to Promote Small-Scale Renewable Energy Applications in Rural Areas of the Arab Region (REGEND), and adopt regulatory and institutional tools and frameworks emanating from REGEND and targeting policymakers, with a special focus on rural women and young people.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An e-learning course consisting of the following six units: renewable energy in rural areas; good practices in agriculture; rural development and women’s empowerment; the food industry; the water-energy-food nexus; and fertilization by irrigation (para. 44). • A gender and renewable energy network (para. 44). • The Business Models Toolkit aimed at developing policies, business models and solutions for small-scale renewable energy technologies that benefit rural communities (para. 44). • A regional workshop on the theme “Policy toolkit as guidelines for policymakers to integrate small-scale renewable energy in rural development” (para. 44). • A policy toolkit for policymakers aimed at increasing the use of small-scale renewable energy technologies (para. 44). • A REGEND factsheet (para. 44). • A session on the theme “Role of young people in a just and comprehensive energy transition in the MENA region” (para. 44). • A session on the theme “Possibilities of regional integration” (para. 44). • A session on the theme “Water-energy-food nexus models and best practices” (para. 44). • A workshop on the theme “Skills development for the clean energy transition in the MENA region” (para. 44). • Meetings, workshops, forums and events to disseminate the initiative’s work model and adopt the organizational and institutional tools and frameworks emanating from the initiative and directed to policymakers, with special focus

Recommendation	Related activities
	<p>on women in rural areas and young people (para. 44).</p>
<p>(e) Strengthen collaboration to benefit from achievements and innovations in the natural sciences, and from progress in applications related to carbon capture, use and storage and to hydrogen use; and support plans to transform extractive industries as a driver of the transition to sustainable systems, in line with global trends.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A technology brief entitled “Carbon neutral energy intensive industries” (para. 12). • A side event on the theme “Enabling the circular carbon economy: upscaling regional cooperation for sustainable development” (para. 12). • A session on the theme “Promoting the global circular carbon economy” (para. 13). • A workshop on carbon capture, use and storage (para. 16). • A United Nations retreat in Algeria on the role of extractive industries in the energy transition, and the importance of coordination between regional organizations (para. 58).
<p>(f) Support member States in assessing progress made in SDG 7 on energy and in other related Goals, especially Arab least developed and conflict-affected countries; and identify regional priority actions for the coming years.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A policy brief entitled “Advancing SDG 7 in the Arab region” (para. 4). • A policy brief entitled “Progress made in the Arab region in the Decade of Sustainable Energy” (para. 4). • A session on the theme “Goal 7 - affordable and clean energy” and a session on the theme “Achieving SDGs in fragile contexts: countries in special situations, conflict and post-conflict countries” (para. 7). • The Arab Forum for Sustainable Development 2023 on the theme “Solutions and action” (para. 9). • A special session on the theme “Role of renewable energy in accelerating recovery in fragile and crisis-affected countries” (para. 9). • a policy brief entitled “Impacts of the war in Ukraine on the Arab region” (para. 23). • Providing member States periodically with the latest SDG 7 indicators to urge them to update data, monitor progress and inform ESCWA regularly on the implementation of energy-related SDGs. • Providing member States periodically with web links to the ESCWA Energy Section’s publications and activities under implementation.

Recommendation	Related activities
<p>(g) Continue coordinating with United Nations organizations, the League of Arab States and other regional organizations on implementing the energy-related SDGs and their targets; and work on better inclusion of ESCWA energy-related activities on the agenda of the Arab Ministerial Council for Electricity to maximize the impact on decision-making.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A technical meeting on the theme “Joint action and partnerships, including energy agreements” (para. 6). • A session on the theme “Building multi-stakeholder partnerships to connect the challenges of gender equality and energy transition in a meaningful and effective way” (para. 11). • Side event entitled “Challenges and opportunities for harnessing synergies between climate and the Sustainable Development Goals: the role of carbon dioxide removal” (para. 15). • A side event on the theme “Energy deal of the Sustainable Water and Energy Solutions Network” (para. 22). • A session on the theme “Role of youth in a just and inclusive transition to renewable energy systems in the Arab region” (para. 26). • A session on the theme “Transformative climate action through digitization: blockchain technologies” (para. 26). • Activities of COP 27 (para. 28). • The fourth joint meeting of the Committee of Electricity Experts and the Committee of Experts on Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency of the Arab Ministerial Council for Electricity of the League of Arab States (para. 30). • The seventh general conference of the Arab Union of Electricity (para. 31). • The fourteenth session of the Arab Ministerial Council for Electricity (para. 31). • The thirteenth and fourteenth meetings of the Working Group on the Review of the Terms of Reference of the Study of the Arab Electric Interconnection and the Assessment of the Exploitation of Natural Gas for Electricity Exports (para. 32). • The fourteenth meeting of the Committee of Electricity Experts of the Arab Ministerial Council for Electricity of the League of Arab States (para. 33).

Recommendation	Related activities
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A meeting on the theme “Overcoming challenges and exploring opportunities for sustainable energy transition through South-South cooperation” (para. 35). • A regional consultation for West Asia of the Council of Engineers for the Energy Transition (para. 39). • A regional workshop on guidelines and best practices for MSMEs in sustainable resource management and critical raw material supply (para. 41). • A session on the theme “Solar photovoltaic: a gender perspective” (para. 45). • A high-level meeting on the theme “Renewable energy compact for United Nations peacekeeping” (para. 45).
<p>(h) Expand the beneficiaries of pilot projects implemented by the ESCWA secretariat, publish the results of related studies, benefit from success stories in Arab countries in the field of energy efficiency and disseminate them for guidance through regional and national introductory workshops, and research ways to use these pilot projects to propagate their mechanisms and activities to other member States within the framework of regional initiatives.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two special guidebooks entitled “Practical guidelines for adopting energy efficiency measures in residential units: good practices to be considered when selecting and using household appliances” for Jordan and Tunisia (para. 46). • Two special guidebook entitled “Practical guidelines for adopting energy efficiency measures in residential units in Jordan: good practices to be considered when constructing or rehabilitating a dwelling” for Jordan and Tunisia (para. 46). • A national workshop on the theme “E-tiquette: energy labelling household appliances in Tunisia” (para. 46). • A regional webinar to present the results of a United Nations Development Account project entitled “Upscaling energy efficiency in residential and services sectors in the Arab region” (para. 46).
<p>(i) Broaden the work of the Group of Experts on Fossil Fuels to include extractive industries, in support of the global Working Group on Extractive Industries.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A global sustainability framework for critical raw materials required for low-carbon transitions (para. 28). • The Working Group on Transforming the Extractive Industries for Sustainable Development and its website (para. 49). • A periodic report entitled “Progress report to the Executive Office of the Secretary-General of the United Nations” (para. 49).

Recommendation	Related activities
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An initiative to harness energy transition-critical minerals for sustainable development in least developed countries and landlocked developing countries (para. 49). • A briefing for resident coordinators on harnessing energy transition-critical minerals for sustainable development in least developed countries and landlocked developing countries (para. 49). • A meeting of the Working Group on Transforming the Extractive Industries for Sustainable Development on the theme “Minerals and raw materials in support of energy transition” (para. 50). • A report entitled “Role of Minerals and Raw Materials in Supporting the Energy Transition in the Arab Region” (para. 50). • A session entitled “Collaboration for critical raw materials: activities of the Working Group on transforming the extractive industries for sustainable development” (para. 51).
<p>(j) Develop an online platform on de-risking renewable energy investment (DREI) aimed at coordinating efforts between the private sector, multilateral development banks and member States, so as to reduce the risks of sustainable energy investments.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Arab Regional Forum on Climate Finance (para. 27). • The Compendium of Climate-Related Initiatives: Opportunities for climate finance and investments on the SDGs (para 27). • A report entitled “De-risking small-scale renewable energy in rural areas through microfinance and matchmaking” (para. 42). • An expert group meeting on the theme “Microfinance and matchmaking to boost small-scale renewable energy in rural areas” (para. 43).
<p>(k) Intensify efforts to transform the knowledge produced by the ESCWA secretariat through studies and reports into practical interactive tools and platforms on sustainable energy transition, to be used by willing countries in their decision-making processes.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An e-learning course consisting of the following six units: renewable energy in rural areas; good practices in agriculture; rural development and women’s empowerment; the food industry; the water-energy-food nexus; and fertilization by irrigation (para. 44). • A policy toolkit for policymakers aimed at increasing the use of small-scale renewable energy technologies (para. 44).
