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Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA)

Coordination Meeting of the Steering Committee for the “Regional Initiative for Promoting Small-Scale Renewable Energy Applications in Rural Areas of the Arab Region” (REGEND).

UN-House, Beirut, Lebanon, 1 December 2021, 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM.

INFORMATION NOTE

The Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) is convening the Third Coordination Meeting of the Steering Committee for the “Regional Initiative for Promoting Small-Scale Renewable Energy Applications in Rural Areas of the Arab Region” (REGEND) to discuss and coordinate project outcomes and lessons learnt from each country. The coordination meeting will be held on 1 December 2021, within the framework of the [11th International Forum on Energy for Sustainable Development](#).

1. Background

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 organizations, 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 three targeted countries, namely: Jordan, Lebanon and Tunisia.

2. *Scope*

The REGEND project aims to improve the livelihoods of rural Arab communities by promoting pro-poor investments in renewable energy (RE) applications focusing on environmentally adequate, affordable, and region specific small-scale renewable energy technologies. The project addresses the underlying constraints in the rural environment and operation of market mechanisms within the rural areas of the Arab countries. It intends to review, benchmark and build capacity to enable the dissemination and use of appropriate renewable energy technologies based on rural entrepreneurship in green sectors. The project is conceived to promote gender equality and social inclusion to support rural development, satisfy energy needs and showcase and document the effectiveness of the bottom-up approach to achieve the desired results.

The present meeting will constitute the Coordination Meeting of the Steering Committee (SC) to facilitate the coordination and collaboration between the various project partners and streamline the coordination process between the various levels of project planning and implementation of project activities at local community/national and regional levels.

The meeting will focus on updating the implementing partners on the project outcomes and lessons learnt in the three targeted countries: Jordan, Lebanon, and Tunisia. The meeting will also discuss the methods to monitor and ensure the project's sustainability beyond the completion phase.

3. *Objectives and Themes*

The objective of this Coordination Meeting is to bring together key implementing partners of the “*Regional Initiative for Promoting Small-Scale Renewable Energy Applications in Rural Areas of the Arab Region*” to discuss the project's outcomes and reflect on the lessons learnt.

The meeting intends to provide an update on the outcomes of the meetings undertaken in the pilot countries - Jordan, Lebanon, and Tunisia. It also aims to review the project's outcomes, results, and impacts on the beneficiaries lives and productive activities.

4. *Focus Areas*

The purpose of the meeting is to coordinate and review with the government officials the activities and projects implemented at the three pilot countries; Jordan, Tunisia and Lebanon and discuss the way forward for arab regional perspective. The meeting will also include a review of the findings and outcomes of the gender and energy study.

5. *Participants*

Participants will include representatives and experts from Government officials of the pilot countries.

6. *Date and venue*

The Coordination Meeting will be held at the UN-House in Beirut, Lebanon, in Committee Room 1 on the 1st of December 2021 at 10:00 AM until 12:00 PM.

7. *Language of the session*

The meeting materials will be presented in Arabic and English languages.

8. *Correspondence*

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

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