



Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA)

REPORT

NINTH SESSION OF THE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY KUWAIT, 12-13 JUNE 2013

Summary

The Committee on Energy of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) held its ninth session at The Regency Hotel in Kuwait on 12-13 June 2013.

The session agenda included several priority topics, including: follow-up on the implementation of recommendations made by the Committee on Energy at its eighth session; progress made in the implementation of energy-related activities under the ESCWA programme of work between the eighth and ninth sessions of the Committee on Energy; executed projects to be implemented through the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) in ESCWA member countries; the adoption and application of renewable energy technologies in ESCWA member countries; and the proposed ESCWA programme of work for the biennium 2014-2015 in the field of energy. The meeting also reviewed the results of international and regional meetings in the field of energy, including the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20), and the joint consultative meeting of the Committee on Water Resources and the Committee on Energy on the interrelationship between the water and energy sectors in ESCWA member countries. There was a general discussion on the programmes and achievements of member countries in this area. The Committee concluded a set of recommendations relating to each item on the agenda.

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Introduction

1. The Committee on Energy at ESCWA held its ninth session on 12 and 13 June, 2013, pursuant to the UN-ESCWA resolution 204 (XVIII) of 25 May 1995 on the establishment of a Committee on Energy at the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, as adopted by the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations in resolution 1995/40 of 24 July 1995, and in implementation of the recommendations issued by the Committee on Energy at its eighth session held in Beirut on 13 and 14 December 2010 and approved by ESCWA in its twenty-seventh session held in Beirut from 7 to 10 May 2012.

2. The report highlights the most important recommendations approved by the ESCWA Committee on Energy at its ninth session.

I. RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AT ITS NINTH SESSION

3. The Committee on Energy at the end of its fifty-ninth session issued a set of recommendations, some addressed to the Commission and others to member countries.

A. RECOMMENDATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE COMMISSION

4. The Committee on Energy addressed to the Commission the following recommendations:

(a) Take note of the progress made in the follow-up to the implementation of recommendations made at the eighth session, the implementation of activities under the programme of work between the eighth and ninth sessions, and the general orientation and activities proposed for the ESCWA programme of work in the field of energy for the biennium 2014-2015, in line with the developmental needs in member countries, and consistent with the outputs of international and regional conferences related to sustainable development;

(b) Support the cooperation and coordination efforts between member states in their work to adopt and spread the concept of clean technology in the areas of renewable energy and energy efficiency; to continue to provide support for the development of policies to improve energy efficiency and saving; and to support the localization of renewable energy technologies appropriate to local conditions in the Arab region, taking into account the initiative "Sustainable Energy for All" launched by the Secretary-General of the United Nations;

(c) Request ESCWA to activate the Secretary-General's initiative "Sustainable Energy for All," and coordinate with all United Nations organizations and regional organizations concerned with this issue;

(d) Expand the technical cooperation activities of ESCWA to include: (1) energy efficiency in buildings in the Arab region; (2) investment in energy efficiency and renewable energy projects to mitigate the effects of climate change and achieve sustainable development; (3) development of the capacities of ESCWA member countries with regard to the water-energy-food nexus to achieve the goals of sustainable development; (4) giving special attention to the least developed countries with regard to the preparation of bankable projects in the field of renewable energy, in coordination with regional and international organizations; (5) supporting the strengthening of institutional frameworks and restructuring of the energy sector in countries emerging from conflict by conducting training workshops and field visits; (6) supporting the efforts of States in building partnerships between the public and private sectors for the development of renewable energy projects;

(e) Forming a working group of members of the Committee on Energy to prepare a study on the option of manufacturing the components of renewable energy devices;

(f) Organize training workshops on ways to benefit from the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM), including Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Actions (NAMA), and develop a regional initiative to support energy efficiency in priority sectors in collaboration with the Regional Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (RCREEE) and the League of Arab States;

(g) Follow up on the correlative relationship between the pricing of oil and gas, and energy efficiency and renewable energy activities and projects;

(h) Strengthen work with member countries to exchange expertise and information about pilot experiments; organize field visits to promote the dissemination of energy-related technologies and systems for sustainable development; and develop technical materials related to energy issues, and sustainable development, its challenges, and its relationship to energy security and climate change mitigation;

(i) Evaluate ESCWA's participation in the working group concerned with reviewing the statute and work mechanisms of the Arab Ministerial Council for Electricity, and urge the Commission to continue to participate in the activities of the ministerial council;

(j) Strengthen cooperation with the League of Arab States and RCREEE on the preparation of joint programmes and plans, especially in relation to the Arab renewable energy framework; develop the consolidated database for countries in the field of energy and code networks (Grid Code) for renewable energy; provide technical support for the integration of electrical interconnection networks and gas networks; and prepare for the Arab Forum on renewable energy and energy efficiency;

(k) Hold a follow-up meeting of the Committee on Energy in the year following the periodic meeting held once every two years to follow up on the implementation of the Committee recommendations, and to involve member countries in the implementation process. The follow-up meeting could be hosted by member countries, on a rotating basis, otherwise, it should be held in the host country;

(l) Continue consultation between the Committee on Energy and the Committee on Water Resources on the water-energy nexus to achieve the objectives of sustainable development;

(m) Intensify communication with member countries during the meetings of the Committee through electronic means.

B. RECOMMENDATIONS ADDRESSED TO MEMBER COUNTRIES

5. The Committee on Energy addressed to member countries the following recommendations:

(a) Work on the development of national strategies to contribute to: (1) the adoption of sustainable patterns of energy production and consumption, including the application of measures to improve energy efficiency and saving, and the dissemination of renewable energy applications; (2) supporting the transfer and localization of energy technologies appropriate to the development requirements in each country (according to national priorities); (3) the development of national capacities in the areas of renewable energy and energy efficiency, and reduction of emissions to mitigate climate change, taking into account relevant legislation and laws;

(b) Strengthen electrical interconnection networks within the Arab region and with neighboring regions, to increase the potential to benefit from electricity produced from renewable energy sources after conducting the necessary feasibility studies;

(c) Prepare national programmes for the establishment of climatic data centers in a range of sites representing each country, and information systems for the collection and compilation of this data to be used in solar and wind energy projects, and the estimation of energy consumption in the buildings sector. ESCWA

is ready to cooperate with the League of Arab States to assist countries in developing a uniform methodology at the regional level, to monitor and collect this data at the national level, and include it in a regional system;

(d) Work on building national capacities in the area of energy balances and efficient management of energy resources, and establishing institutional frameworks for the preparation of energy balances on the national and sectoral levels;

(e) Assess the regulatory framework proposed by ESCWA to develop energy-efficient and renewable energy systems at the level of each country, and benefit from them. ESCWA is ready to provide support to member countries wishing to activate this proposal at the national level;

(f) Continue to prepare and present country papers at meetings of the Committee on Energy to inform about the activities, policies, and procedures adopted in this field within each country, in order to exchange expertise and benefit from successful practices;

(g) Periodically notify ESCWA about programs, policies, and procedures being implemented by countries in the field of energy, and the statistical data associated with them for inclusion in ESCWA studies, and provide ESCWA with the suggestions of countries on strategies used in the field of energy efficiency and renewable energy;

(h) Effectively participate in international consultations on the development of sustainable development goals, and seek to highlight energy issues on the international agenda.

II. TOPICS OF DISCUSSION

A. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AT ITS EIGHTH SESSION (Item 4 (a) of the agenda)

6. The Committee on Energy under this item was presented with Document E/ESCWA/SDPD/2013/IG.2/3(Part I) which lists the activities carried out and others planned for implementation in the field of energy in accordance with the recommendations made by the Committee on Energy at its eighth session (Beirut, 13-14 December 2010). The secretariat asked the representatives of member countries to follow up on the implementation process and provide suggestions and recommendations in this regard.

7. The discussion was opened by the delegate of the Sultanate of Oman, who thanked the president of the eighth session of the Committee on Energy, and asked that the recommendations be provided in the form of a summary table no more than two pages to facilitate access to them and the procedures taken thereon. The delegate of Morocco requested the inclusion of the unimplemented recommendations in the proposed table, and making a recommendation on promoting partnership between the public and private sectors. The president of the ninth session (representative of Libya in the committee) endorsed the proposal made by the delegate of Morocco, and asked to give attention to the issue of data collection and information.

B. IMPLEMENTATION OF ENERGY-RELATED ACTIVITIES UNDER THE ESCWA PROGRAMME OF WORK (Item 4 (b) of the agenda)

8. The Committee reviewed in Document E/ESCWA/SDPD/2013/IG.2/3 (Part II) the progress made in the implementation of energy-related activities under the ESCWA programme of work since its eighth session, including follow-up on the results of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20), which was held in June 2012. The secretariat asked the representatives of member countries to review these activities and provide suggestions and recommendations.

9. In response to an inquiry by the delegate of Palestine on the mechanism to be adopted by ESCWA in the provision of technical support to member countries, the secretariat confirmed its readiness to meet the requests from Palestine. It also affirmed that there is regular collaboration between the Palestinian Ministry of Planning and ESCWA, especially in the field of water and the green economy, and called for extending this cooperation to the field of energy. In response to an inquiry by the delegate of Morocco about the quality of technical support provided by ESCWA to member countries, the secretariat explained that it includes technical consultation, the exchange of expertise, organizing educational visits, and providing support at the level of project development.

C. EXECUTED PROJECTS AND THOSE TO BE IMPLEMENTED THROUGH THE
CLEAN DEVELOPMENT MECHANISM IN ESCWA MEMBER COUNTRIES
(Item 5 of the agenda)

10. The Committee reviewed in Document E/ESCWA/SDPD/2013/IG.2/4 the executed projects and those to be implemented through the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) in ESCWA member countries. It examined the experiences of countries regarding the registration of CDM projects, and presented the new CDM targets, including “Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Actions” (NAMA) aimed at achieving greater harmonization between the Clean Development Mechanism and development requirements of countries involved in CDM projects. The Committee noted the importance of building national capacities in this area for the exchange of expertise and coordination at the regional level.

11. The LAS delegate inquired about the use of the Arab Framework Action Plan to benefit from the Clean Development Mechanism, the process of submitting projects, and the effects of low carbon prices on this mechanism. The secretariat explained that CDM projects must correspond to the needs of countries, serve their developmental goals, and play a role in reducing emissions, noting that carbon prices already affect the Clean Development Mechanism. The delegate of Qatar asked whether the funding allocated for CDM projects in China and India exceeds that for Arab countries. The secretariat explained that funding is usually provided by the countries [listed in] Annex I, and that some funding has been provided by Masdar [Institute of Science and Technology]. The secretariat added that the share of Arab countries is relatively small due to the limited number of projects which are enrolled as CDM projects. The delegate of Oman proposed organizing a workshop on the experiences of countries with the Clean Development Mechanism in cooperation with the relevant authorities. The delegate of Sudan pointed out to the complicated process of obtaining approval for CDM projects, and proposed the establishment of national committees to provide support in this area. There is a set of conditions that have to be applied to the project in order to consider it as a CDM project, including: endorsing CDM as one of the project’s financing sources; and the project’s owner has to coordinate with the Designated National Authority (DNA) of the project host country to enrol it in the endorsed national list of CDM projects. The Arab League delegate proposed organizing a workshop on this topic in Bahrain in coordination with ESCWA. The delegate of Libya said that the process of obtaining approval for the first CDM [project] would be difficult, but becomes easier with subsequent projects.

D. THE ADOPTION AND APPLICATION OF RENEWABLE ENERGY TECHNOLOGIES
IN ESCWA MEMBER COUNTRIES
(Item 6 of the agenda)

12. Document E/ESCWA/SDPD/2013/IG.2/5 contains a review of appropriate renewable energy technologies to be adopted and applied in ESCWA member countries, and utilized in the production of electricity whether off or/and on grid, and in the production of mechanical and thermal energy for direct use. The document also discusses obstacles to the adoption of renewable energy technologies, and proposed policies and measures to overcome them, in order to contribute to the development of a national vision on strategies for the localization of appropriate renewable energy technologies, which is a priority in the national programme for each country. The document concludes with a number of guidelines on policies

related to renewable energy technologies, due to their essential role in determining the appropriate renewable energy applications for adoption.

13. The delegate of the Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research (KISR) pointed out to the absence of a unified code on renewable energy for Arab countries, and inquired about the cost of maintenance of renewable energy equipment and the availability of studies or data on this topic. The secretariat noted the availability of a draft study on the unified code which is currently not accessible, and explained that the issue of maintenance must be taken into consideration in any renewable energy project. The delegate of Palestine referred to the high cost of investment in renewable energy projects, especially in Palestine, and inquired about agreements with industrialized countries to reduce this cost. The representative of RCREEE said that preparation is underway to hold an Arab workshop in cooperation with the LAS on the unified code, and will result in the issuance of a guidance document on the subject. The delegate of Morocco proposed to direct conventional energy subsidies to renewable energies.

14. The delegate of Oman proposed the establishment of a body responsible for renewable energy, and an atlas for each country based on factual data. The secretariat commended the proposal of the delegate of Iraq, who called on ESCWA member countries to manufacture renewable energy equipment parts, and considered it of great importance given its relation to small and medium industries. The delegate of RCREEE noted that the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) is currently working on the expansion and development of a solar atlas for the Arab countries. The delegate of Iraq requested that the information contained in the atlas cover long [time] periods, and suggested that the task be undertaken by the LAS. The secretariat pointed to a significant shortage of field information, particularly on basic climate data, and the need to make a serious effort to prepare and collect data. [The secretariat added that] photovoltaic cell technologies are advancing rapidly, and that the maximum level of efficiency that can be achieved through local manufacturing does not exceed 40 per cent. Therefore, the decision requires further review so that locally adopted technologies would be in line with global advances. Also, manufacturing some [renewable energy] equipment parts may be sufficient at the current stage.

E. GENERAL DISCUSSION ABOUT THE PROGRAMS AND ACHIEVEMENTS OF ESCWA
MEMBER COUNTRIES IN THE FIELD OF ENERGY
(Item 7 of the agenda)

15. In the letter of invitation, ESCWA asked member countries to take part in the meetings of the ninth session of the Committee on Energy, and delegates to submit intervention letters that outline the achievements of their countries in the field of energy for sustainable development, in order to exchange experiences and lessons, and consider possible opportunities for cooperation in this area. Country representatives submitted intervention letters outlining their countries' programs and achievements in the field of energy, adopted policies and measures, as well as views and experiences.

16. The UAE delegate discussed a number of projects and initiatives in the field of renewable energy and energy efficiency in the United Arab Emirates, such as the zero-carbon Masdar City and Shams solar power station, and the law of thermal insulation in buildings in Sharjah.

17. The delegate of Bahrain spoke about the increase in electricity consumption by around 7 to 10 per cent a year. He noted that the issue of pricing is one of the main challenges, and pointed to an existing alternative energy project in the country.

18. The delegate of Sudan outlined the problems facing the country in the field of energy, including the unavailability of [electricity] for 70 per cent of the population; the high cost of energy production, its non-consumption in the productive sectors, and high level of squandering; the use of 63 per cent of the biomass in [energy] production, which is causing significant environmental problems; the lack of private investment in general, particularly in the field of renewable energies; in addition to problems with the rationalization of demand. He listed a number of achievements, such as the National Energy Plan, which involves a number of

stakeholders and depends on balanced power; energy efficiency programs in government buildings; outreach programs for the rational use of energy; and the use of prepaid meters.

19. The delegate of Iraq gave an overview of the current status of energy in Iraq, particularly in terms of energy production from different stations, and additional production from renewable energy (during the period 2012-2015). He discussed the various problems and challenges, including the old generating units, transmission and distribution networks, subsidized tariffs, and investment barriers. He laid out a future vision for meeting the country's actual need of electrical energy through sustainable and economically efficient means, and offered means to achieve this vision and its various stages.

20. The delegate of Iraq gave a presentation on the status of the power sector in Iraq, including the extraordinary efforts to secure electrical power through the rehabilitation of existing production stations and construction of new ones, the development of policies to rationalize electricity, the adoption of progressive energy tariffs and modern technologies, and the issuance of relevant legislation. He also discussed renewable energy, research activities, and current projects in this area.

21. The delegate of Oman gave a summary about the electricity sector in the Sultanate, including the organizational structure, GCC interconnection, the status of renewable energy in the country, and the plan by the Public Authority for Electricity and Water to generate electricity from renewable energy, particularly wind and solar energies, and its quest to examine the incentive policies for renewable energy. The delegate also discussed the rationalization of energy consumption in the electricity sector and the relevant study that will be conducted. The delegate ended the presentation with an overview on the status of oil and gas, and future plans in this field.

22. The delegate of Palestine gave a summary about the challenges facing the country in the field of energy, such as the scarcity of sources and inability to fully exploit them; various political, financial, and technical barriers; and the shortage of skilled manpower. She laid out [the country's] renewable energy strategy with specific targets to meet by the year 2020 and adopted measures to apply them, and discussed the Palestine Solar Initiative which aims to install sporadic small photovoltaic panels on the rooftops of households.

23. The delegate of the Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research showed a video of the Al-Shaqaya renewable energy station, which is to be implemented by the institute in Kuwait. The station is expected to provide a total installed power capacity of 2005 MW, including solar thermal energy based on parabolic troughs (750 MW) and solar towers (400 MW) solar PV (713 MW), and wind power (142 MW). The project will include a center for research and development, a zone for testing solar thermal power technologies, and a residential area for employees. It is expected to prevent the emission of about five million tons of carbon dioxide, and provide around 10,000 jobs during the construction period and 1,000 jobs during the operation period.

24. The delegate of Libya presented the status of the energy sector in the country, the lack of programmes for energy efficiency and renewable, and the problems resulting from the destruction of networks, the ongoing rationing. He focused on the efforts underway to connect all areas to the [power] network, and secure government support for fuel.

25. The delegate of Morocco discussed the electricity sector in the country, including the organizational structure and electrical interconnection with neighboring countries. She offered details about the new national energy strategy and its main objectives such as [electricity] supply, the provision of affordable energy, control of demand, and environmental preservation. She talked about a national plan to rationalize the electricity sector, the main functions of the body concerned [with the project], and European initiatives for the development of renewable energies.

26. The delegate of RCREEE gave a brief presentation about the center, including its date of establishment, objectives, member countries, and organizational structure, in addition to the activities and various studies conducted in it in cooperation with the LAS, such as the Arab Strategy for Renewable Energy, or with countries through national action plans.

27. The LAS delegate outlined the various activities being carried out in the Arab Ministerial Council for Electricity, such as the Arab Guideline for Electricity, which has effectively started to achieve energy efficiency in the Arab region since its adoption. The 21 May of each year was designated as the Arab day for energy efficiency. The Arab League delegate discussed the existing coordination with ESCWA, the United Nations Environment Programme and RCREEE, and stressed the need to maintain this cooperation and coordinate efforts.

F. THE RESULTS OF INTERNATIONAL AND REGIONAL MEETINGS IN THE FIELD OF ENERGY
UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT (RIO+20)
(Item 8 (a) of the agenda)

28. During the visual presentation, the committee presented the outcomes of the Rio+20 conference held in June 2012, which ESCWA played a key role in its organization in collaboration with the Secretariat of the Council of Arab Ministers Responsible for the Environment (CAMRE) in the Arab League and the United Nations Environment Programme. The committee tackled energy-related topics contained in the final document of the Rio+20 Conference issued under the title “The Future We Want” which is of importance for the Arab region, and the actions taken and efforts made to follow up on the results of the conference. The committee offered proposals on how to translate the conference results into national and regional programmes in the field of energy to meet the needs and priorities of the Arab region in achieving sustainable development within a regional cooperation framework.

29. The delegate of Egypt stressed the need for ESCWA to adopt a specific mechanism for activating agreements, and to develop an operational framework that incorporates different dimensions. The secretariat noted that the Dubai Document issued in May 2013 identified the role that should be played by Arab countries to influence global negotiations, adding that ESCWA is working continuously on both the regional and international levels.

G. THE RESULTS OF INTERNATIONAL AND REGIONAL MEETINGS IN THE FIELD OF ENERGY
JOINT CONSULTATIVE MEETING OF THE COMMITTEES OF WATER RESOURCES AND
ENERGY ON THE WATER ENERGY NEXUS IN ESCWA MEMBER COUNTRIES
(Item 8 (b) of the agenda)

30. The committee gave a visual presentation about the results of this consultative meeting held by ESCWA on 27 and 28 June, 2012. Participants exchanged views and identified priorities of key importance for planning future work, and which require greater attention from member countries.

31. The delegate of RCREEE stressed the importance of maintaining a balance between energy efficiency and water efficiency, and achieving zero waste and clean industry. The secretariat focused on the importance of coordination at the country level between all the sectors concerned.

H. THE PROPOSED WORK PROGRAMME FOR THE BIENNIUM 2014-2015 IN THE FIELD OF ENERGY
(Item 9 of the agenda)

32. Document E/ESCWA/SDPD/2013/IG.2/6 contains the outcomes and activities proposed to be carried out under the ESCWA programme of work for the biennium 2014-2015 in the field of energy. This programme has been prepared in accordance with the revised strategic framework for the biennium 2014-2015, which was adopted by ESCWA in its twenty-seventh session (Beirut, 7-10 May 2012). The secretariat asked representatives of member countries to review the programme and make related proposals.

33. Also under this item, the secretariat gave a visual presentation on strengthening the role of government committees at ESCWA, including the Committee on Energy, in order to reach a common vision to activate regional cooperation in the field of energy in line with the needs of member countries.

34. The delegate of Kuwait proposed that members of the Committee on Energy serve for two sessions, i.e. for two years, and that new members be named after that period. In response, the ESCWA secretariat stressed the need to continue efforts to ensure the success of the work, leaving it up to countries to decide for themselves according to their internal arrangements. The LAS delegate asked about the possibility of modifying the proposed programme of work for the biennium 2014-2015 to include additional activities to be held in cooperation with the League of Arab States. The secretariat left this possibility open [for further discussion].

I. DATE AND VENUE OF THE TENTH SESSION OF THE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY
(Item 10 of the agenda)

35. The Committee on Energy is scheduled to hold its tenth session in Beirut in December 2014, unless it receives an invitation to hold it in one of the member countries.

J. ANY OTHER BUSINESS
(Item 11 of the agenda)

36. There was no discussion of topics outside the agenda.

**III. THE ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY
ON ITS NINTH SESSION**
(Item 12 of the agenda)

37. Pursuant to the provisions of Article 33 of the Terms of Reference and Rules of Procedure of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, [a copy of] the draft report of the ninth session was sent by email on July 25 2013 to the members of the Committee on Energy, who were given a one-week period to submit their comments in writing and send them to the Sustainable Development and Productivity Division (SDPD) at ESCWA no later than 1 August 2013. In light of the observations submitted to ESCWA, the final text of the report was adopted on 1 August 2013.

38. ESCWA thanked the participants for their interest, follow-up, and active participation during the meetings of the ninth session, through the discussions and presentations given by them.

IV. ORGANIZATION OF THE SESSION

A. PLACE AND DATE OF THE SESSION

39. The Committee on Energy of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) held its ninth session in the Regency Hotel in Kuwait on 12 and 13 June 2013. The work was distributed over four sessions.

B. OPENING

40. Mr. Karim Khalil, special assistant to ESCWA Executive Secretary [Rima Khalaf], gave a welcome speech, and thanked Mr. Antoine Eid, consul of the Republic of Lebanon to Kuwait, for attending the opening session. Representing the Republic of Lebanon which chaired the eighth session of the Committee on Energy, Eid gave a speech stressing his country's active participation in ESCWA activities and its cooperation with fraternal Arab countries, whether in government committees, including the Committee on Energy, or in expert meetings and workshops. [He said that] Lebanon believes in joint Arab work and the

importance of sustainable development, especially in the field of energy. Lebanon joined the general trade agreement for the five-party grid interconnection, which became known as the six-party grid after its accession, and later evolved into the seven-party and eight-party interconnection following the accession of Libya and Palestine. Lebanon also signed the Convention on Climate Change and the Kyoto Protocol, and actively participated in the Rio+20 meetings in Brazil held last year. Pursuant to article 18 of the Rules of Procedure of ESCWA, which provides that member countries shall assume the presidency of the subsidiary bodies of the Commission on a rotating basis, in the Arabic alphabetical order employed by the United Nations, Mr. Eid, representative of the Republic of Lebanon, invited Dr Mohammad Ali Khallat, representative of the state of Libya, to take over the presidency of the ninth session since Libya will hold the presidency of the ninth session succeeding the Republic of Lebanon. He thanked the ESCWA working team and the office of the Committee on Energy at its eighth session for the fruitful cooperation during the period of Lebanon's presidency of the Commission, hoping for continued cooperation between all ESCWA member countries for the good of Arab citizens.

41. Ms. Roula Majdalani, director of the Sustainable Development and Productivity Division in the UN-ESCWA, presented a statement on behalf of Dr. Rima Khalaf, under-secretary general of the United Nations and executive secretary of ESCWA. She welcomed the attendees and representatives of countries, especially those that recently joined ESCWA in 2012. In her statement, she stressed the huge potentials for work in the area of energy efficiency in most countries of the region, which may in the coming years fail to meet the growing demand for electric power. She also stressed the importance of the energy sector for the United Nations, and noted that UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon launched an initiative entitled "Sustainable Energy for All" in September 2011, which includes three goals to be realized by 2030: (a) ensuring universal access to modern energy services; (b) doubling the global rate of improvement in energy efficiency (c) doubling the share of renewable energy in the global energy mix. She added that climate change is a comprehensive and ongoing crisis, and is a cause for concern, especially in our region where there is an increasing risk of desertification, water scarcity, and warming. She said that the fight against climate change requires urgent action in accordance with the principles and provisions of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, adding that even though the responsibility is shared, it is certainly differentiated. She noted that developed countries, which were essential protagonists in the accumulation of emissions in space since the industrial revolution, should fulfill their duty in supporting developing countries, of which Arab countries are part. She concluded that achieving the aforementioned directions and objectives requires laying the foundations for good governance, and creating a supportive environment that is stable on the political, security, social and legislative fronts, and an investment-friendly atmosphere that boosts public-private partnerships.

42. Osama Abdallah Al-Sayegh, director of the Department of Science and Technology at the Energy & Building Research Center of the Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research (KISR), said that compared to natural gas, oil is expected to be the least growing demanded fuel over the next 20 years. He explained that the main growing supply regions of natural gas are the Middle East, which constitutes 26 percent of the global growth rate, and the Former Soviet Union which has a 19 percent growth rate. It is estimated that Australia, China and the United States would contribute to increasing natural gas demand on the international market with a growth rate of 12 per cent. The petrochemical industry in East Asia is expected to see development in order to respond to an increasing demand for refined petroleum products. Thus, member countries should develop the appropriate job skills, increase investment in the refining and petrochemical technologies, as well as develop policies to promote renewable energy and increase energy efficiency.

C. ATTENDANCE

43. The session was attended by representatives of 11 out of 17 ESCWA member countries, a representative of the League of Arab States, a representative of the Regional Center for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency as observer, and experts from the Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research. The list of participants is contained in Annex I of this report.

D. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

44. Rule 18 of the Rules of Procedure of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia states the following: "Member countries shall assume the chairmanship of 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 this rule, Libya shall hold the presidency of the ninth session of the Committee on Energy succeeding the Republic of Lebanon, which chaired the eighth session from 13 December 2010 to 12 June 2013. To ensure continuity of work and consistency with the principle of rotation among member countries, the Commission applied what was decided in the seventh session (paragraph 31 of the report of the Committee on Energy on its seventh E/ESCWA/SDPD/2009/IG.1/7): "As of the next session of the Committee, the method adopted earlier in the meetings of the ESCWA Committee on Transport will be implemented, which provides for the election of the two Vice-Chairs and the Rapporteur for following sessions every time as follows:

(a) The country that chaired the previous session assumes the position of one Vice-Chair of the current session;

(b) The country following the current Chair in the Arabic alphabetical order of member countries assumes the position of second Vice-Chair;

(c) The country following the Chair mentioned in section (b) in the Arabic alphabetical order of member countries is named Rapporteur.

Therefore, the officers of the ninth session of the Committee on Energy will be as follows:

President: Mr. Mohamed Ali Khallat, representative of Libya

Vice -President: Mr. Ramzi Al-Dbaisy, representative of the Republic of Lebanon

Vice-President: Mr. Ahmed Muhinah, representative of the Arab Republic of Egypt

Rapporteur: Ms. Al-Zahra Al-Tayiq, representative of the Kingdom of Morocco

E. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND ORGANIZATION OF WORK

45. At its first meeting, the Committee on Energy adopted the agenda of its ninth session as set out in document E/ESCWA/SDPD/2013/IG.2/L.1. Set forth below is the form of the agenda that was adopted:

1. Opening of the session.
2. Election of officers.
3. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.
4. Progress achieved in the field of energy since the eighth session of the Committee on Energy:
 - (a) Implementation of recommendations made by the Committee on Energy at its eighth session;
 - (b) Implementation of energy-related activities under the ESCWA programme of work.
5. Executed projects and others to be implemented through the Clean Development Mechanism in ESCWA member countries.
6. The adoption and application of renewable energy technologies in ESCWA member countries.
7. National papers on programs and achievements of ESCWA member countries in the field of energy.

8. The results of international and regional meetings in the field of energy:
 - (a) The United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20);
 - (b) The joint consultative meeting of the Committee on Water Resources and the Committee on Energy on the interrelationship between the water and energy sectors in ESCWA member countries.
 9. The proposed programme of work for the biennium 2014-2015 in the field of energy.
 10. The date and venue of the tenth session of the Committee on Energy.
 11. Any other matters.
 12. Adoption of the report of the Committee on Energy on its ninth session.
46. At the same meeting, the Committee approved the proposed organization of work as presented in document E/ESCWA/SDPD/2013/IG.2/L.2.

F. LIST OF DOCUMENTS

47. A list of documents presented to the Committee on Energy at its eighth session is contained in annex II to this report.

Annex I

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

A. ESCWA MEMBER COUNTRIES

United Arab Emirates

Mr. Mohammed Thamer Alshamsi
Chief administrative officer
Director of Petroleum Economics and Minerals
Ministry of Energy

Ms. Kouloud Ali Alnaqbi
Office of Deputy Minister
Ministry of Energy

Bahrain

Mr. Abdulaziz Abdulqader Saeed Ali
Petroleum Projects Expert
National Oil and Gas Authority (NOGA)

The Sudan

Mr. Gamal Othman Abu Bekr Suleiman
Director General
Sudanese Petroleum Corporation
Ministry of Petroleum

Mr. Mohammed Saleh Farah Ismail
Ministry of Petroleum

Iraq

Mr. Ali Abdul Aziz Al-Saudi
Chief Engineer
Ministry of Planning and Development
Cooperation

Oman

Mr. Ali Bin Hamed Al-Ghafri
Assistant to Chairman for International Relations
and Media
Public Authority for Electricity and Water

Ibrahim Ben Said Ben Hamoud Al Qassabi
Marketing Researcher
Directorate General of Oil and Gas Marketing
Ministry of Oil and Gas

Palestine

Ms. Shurouq Ghneim
Ministry of Planning and Administrative
Development

Qatar

Sheikh Mishal bin Jabor Al Thani
Director of Energy Policy and International
Relations
Qatar Petroleum

Mr. Fahad Hamad Al Tamimi
Assistant Manager of Renewable Energy
New Energy Department
Qatar Petroleum

Kuwait

Ms. Tamadher Ali Khoraiabet
Director, Energy Research Department
Ministry of Oil

Mr. Mishari Malek Badr Al-Sabah
Media Researcher
Ministry of Oil

Lebanon

Mr. Toni Eid
Consul of Lebanon in Kuwait
Kuwait

Libya

Mr. Mohammad Ali Khalat
Undersecretary
Ministry of Electricity and Renewable Energy

Egypt

Mr. Mohammad Jaber Abou Al-Wafa
Counselor
Embassy of Egypt
Kuwait

Morocco

Ms. Zohra Ettaik
Head of Renewable Energies and Energy Control
Division
Directorate of Electricity and Renewable Energy
Ministry of Energy, Minerals, Water and
Environment

B. ORGANIZATION GUEST PARTICIPANTS/INTERNATIONAL OR REGIONAL INSTITUTIONS
(AS AN OBSERVER)

Ms. Jamila Youssef Matar
Plenipotentiary Minister/Director of Energy
Management
League of Arab States (LAS)
Cairo, Egypt

Mr. Tareq Emtairah
Executive Director
Regional Center for Renewable Energy and
Energy Efficiency (RCREEE)
Cairo, Egypt

Mr. Walid Deghaili
Consultant
Economic and Social Commission for Western
Asia (ESCWA)

Mr. Osama Aballah Al-Sayegh
Energy and Building Research Center
Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research (KISR)

Mr. Saad Salem Al-Jandal
Associate Research Scientist
Building and Energy Technologies Department
Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research (KISR)

Annex II

LIST OF DOCUMENTS

Title	Item	Symbol
Provisional agenda and annotations	3	E/ESCWA/SDPD/2013/IG.2/L.1
Organization of work	3	E/ESCWA/SDPD/2013/IG.2/L.2
Progress achieved in the field of energy since the eighth session of the Committee on Energy	4	E/ESCWA/SDPD/2013/IG.2/3
Implementation of recommendations made by the Committee on Energy at its eighth session	4 (a)	E/ESCWA/SDPD/2013/IG.2/3(Part I)
Implementation of energy-related activities under ESCWA programme of work	4 (b)	E/ESCWA/SDPD/2013/IG.2/3(Part II)
Projects achieved and those planned to be implemented through the clean development mechanism in ESCWA member countries	5	E/ESCWA/SDPD/2013/IG.2/4
Adoption and implementation of renewable energy technologies in ESCWA member countries	6	E/ESCWA/SDPD/2013/IG.2/5
Proposed programme of work for the biennium 2014-2015 in the field of energy	9	E/ESCWA/SDPD/2013/IG.2/6
Report of the Committee on Energy on its ninth session	7	E/ESCWA/SDPD/2013/IG.2/7/Report