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Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA)

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

Item 8 of the provisional agenda

**Establishment of a group of experts on fossil fuels and climate change
Draft resolution**

Summary

In order to accelerate collective efforts towards the energy-related Sustainable Development Goals and help member States to formulate sustainable energy policies and strategies, a draft resolution on the establishment of a group of experts on fossil fuels and climate change is presented to members of the Committee on Energy for their consideration.

Participants to the eleventh session of the Committee are invited to make comments on the draft. It will then be presented in this or an amended form to the thirtieth session of ESCWA for adoption.

Introduction

1. The Arab region is endowed with large reserves of crude oil and natural gas. It accounts for a big share of the world's oil and natural gas production. Domestic demand is relatively small and fossil fuels still dominate the region's energy mix.
2. For the Arab region to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals and implement international agreements, particularly the 2015 Paris Agreement on climate change, it needs to move towards advanced, clean energy technologies and achieve better efficiency and sustainability in energy use. It should also resort to cleaner fossil fuel technologies. National capacities should be developed to meet growing energy demands, supported by enhanced regional cooperation in the energy field.
3. In order to accelerate collective efforts towards these goals and help member States to formulate sustainable energy policies and strategies, the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) proposes the establishment of a group of experts on fossil fuels and climate change, as a subsidiary body to its Committee on Energy. The group will function in accordance with ESCWA rules of procedure, and United Nations regulations and rules and practices in that regard.
4. The following draft resolution on the establishment of this group of experts is presented to members of the Committee on Energy for their consideration. Participants to the eleventh session of the Committee are invited to provide comments on the draft. It will then be presented in this or an amended form to the thirtieth session of ESCWA for adoption.

DRAFT RESOLUTION ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A GROUP OF EXPERTS ON FOSSIL FUELS AND CLIMATE CHANGE

The Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia,

Recalling the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and commitments by United Nations Member States to make substantial progress on sustainable energy and implement the outcomes of the 2015 Paris Agreement on climate change,

Acknowledging that only improving energy efficiency and increasing the share of renewable energy in the energy mix would be insufficient to ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all,

Acknowledging also that, if Arab countries are to meet their sustainable development and climate goals, it is crucial for them to identify solutions for more effective use of fossil fuels with reduced impact on the environment,

Reaffirming the need for advanced energy technologies, including cleaner fossil fuel technologies, and for more sustainable use of traditional energy resources, improved energy services and enhanced national capacities to meet the growing energy demand,

Recognizing the challenges encountered in covering all areas of the 2030 Agenda and the Paris Agreement, the need to better focus activities and work plans on fossil fuels and clean technologies, and the need for additional technical support from the secretariat of the Commission,

Taking note of the measures adopted by other United Nations regional commissions in response to such challenges, in particular the establishment of groups of experts in various energy areas to ensure coordination of action and improved technical support,

1. *Decides* to establish a group of experts on fossil fuels and climate change, comprised of experts and eminent specialists, and representatives of Governments, national oil and gas companies, the private sector, international organizations and non-governmental organizations, in compliance with United Nations rules of procedure and practices in that regard;

2. *Mandates* that group to provide a forum for multi-stakeholder policy dialogue and exchange of information on: promoting sustainable and clean production, distribution and consumption of fossil fuels; climate change mitigation; increasing share of natural gas in the total primary energy supply; methane and carbon management; technology transfer and innovation; and any new initiatives and topics that are in line with the strategic framework and work programme of the Commission;

3. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to follow up on the implementation of the present resolution and to report thereon to the Commission at its thirty-first session.
