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Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA)

Group of Experts on Fossil Fuels

Second Meeting

Amman, Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, 28 November 2019

INFORMATION NOTE

1. Background Information

Pursuant to the recommendation to the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia's (ESCWA) Committee on Energy (CoE) at its eleventh session in Cairo (14 -16 May 2017), a Group of Experts on Fossil Fuels (GEFF) was established. This group of experts was formed to provide a multi-stakeholder forum for political dialogue and to share information on clean and sustainable energy production, distribution and consumption of fossil fuels and the role of natural gas, methane and carbon management, technology transfer and innovation, climate change mitigation measures, and any new topics in line with ESCWA's strategic framework and work program. The panel comprises representatives from governments, national oil and gas companies, the private sector, international organizations, NGOs and leading experts in the various fossil fuel fields.

The GEFF acts as a subcommittee of the CoE, working in accordance with the rules, procedures and regulations of ESCWA and the United Nations. The group holds its meetings periodically once a year and issues a report on its work to the Committee on Energy.

ESCWA organized the first meeting of the GEFF on 5 December 2018 at UN-House Beirut, Lebanon, with the objective of forming the expert group, reviewing the terms of reference, scope of work of the group, discussing the developments in the Arab energy market, fossil fuel industries and opportunities in the region, as well as the exchange of experiences, views and information on relevant activities in Member States.

The meeting concluded with the issuance of a number of recommendations on the development of a proposal for the program of work (including on regional linkages, interconnection between energy and water, carbon capture and storage techniques, gas flaring in the oil industry, oil shale, clean production technologies, infrastructure, etc.). Further recommendations included information sharing in connected areas, encouraging investment in oil and natural gas, and building capacity in areas of national priority.

The second meeting of the GEFF will be held on 28 November 2019, at the Kempinski Hotel in Amman, Jordan. An expert group meeting on "Mainstreaming Climate Action into National Development Planning in the Arab Region" from 25 to 27 November 2019 shall precede the second meeting of the GEFF.

2. Objectives

The second meeting of the GEFF aims to present activities, in the context of the recommendations of the first meeting, with focus on gas flaring, challenges and monetization opportunities, the potential of Blue and Green hydrogen as a clean green energy source for the future and creating value from hydrocarbon bi-products. Further,

the meeting also aims to discuss the situation of oil shale projects and development in Jordan and any other relevant subject that might come up.

This meeting will also include updates on national fossil fuel activities in Member States delivered by official participants. There will be also an opportunity to exchange experiences and views and make proposals regarding areas of national priority for implementation at the next meeting.

3. Participants

The second meeting of the Group will be attended by official representatives of Governments, national oil and gas companies in Member States, experts from the private sector, non-governmental organizations, regional organizations and international institutions that are members of the Group.

4. Date and Venue

The second meeting of the GEF will take place at the Kempinski Hotel in Amman, Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, on 28 November 2019. Registration will begin at 8:30 am.

5. Language of the Workshop

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

6. Accommodation and Transportation

Each participant shall undertake the preparation for securing hotel related to her/his participation.

7. Entry Visas

Participants are requested to apply for the following preparation related to her/his visa (participant is required to contact the Jordanian Embassy at their respective countries), and any other requirements for travelling to Jordan.

Additional logistical information about how to obtain an entry visa to Jordan, as well as any special arrangements made for hotel reservations, or other additional information will be provided to participants in due course.

8. Correspondence

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

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