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Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA)

United Nations Development Account Project on Developing the Capacity of ESCWA Member Countries to address the Water and Energy Nexus for Achieving Sustainable Development Goals

Regional Policy Workshop on the Water-Energy Nexus
Amman, Jordan, 30-31 October 2016

INFORMATION NOTE

I. BACKGROUND

The United Nations Development Account Project for Developing Capacities of ESCWA Member Countries to address the Water and Energy Nexus for Achieving Sustainable Development Goals seeks to assist Member Countries to build the capacity of ministries responsible for water and energy resources to jointly examine and address the water and energy nexus to reduce inefficiencies from sectoral management at both the policy and technical levels. The project also seeks to assist ESCWA Member Countries to better pursue the integrated management of water and energy resources and services within the context of achieving sustainable development goals (SDGs) in a nexus framework.

This project is being implemented through two parallel, complementary and coordinated capacity building interventions. The first track is targeted towards high-level officials in ministries responsible for water and energy who will be engaged in training on how to address and incorporate the water and energy nexus considerations in their strategies, policies and plans at the national and regional levels. This will be achieved through the preparation of a regional policy tool kit (comprised of seven modules focused on knowledge and awareness-raising; policy coherence; the water-energy security nexus; efficiency; technology; renewable energy; and climate change and natural disasters), their participation in two regional policy training workshops, and the implementation of up to three pilot projects focused on applying a water and energy nexus policy tool. The topics of the policy tool kit and seven modules were agreed upon in an Intergovernmental Consultative meeting held in Beirut in June 2012 by both the ESCWA committee on Water Resources and the ESCWA Energy committee. This meeting resulted in the identification of seven priority areas based on the completion of national level surveys and a collective priority-setting process. The second track will focus on water and energy public service providers and three technical areas of intervention (resource efficiency, technology transfer and renewable energy).

This is reinforcing the League of Arab States Regional Initiative on the Water, Energy and Food Nexus, which has been launched under the auspices of the Arab Ministerial Water Council and Arab Ministerial Council for Electricity and is being formulated with the support of the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH and ESCWA. ESCWA under this initiative is implementing with the League of Arab States a project funded by the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida) on "Promoting Food and Water Security through Cooperation and Capacity Development in the Arab Region.

II. OBJECTIVES OF THE WORKSHOP

The objective of the workshop is to strengthen the capacity of ESCWA Member Countries to achieve an integrated and sustainable management of water and energy resources to contribute to sustainable development in the Arab Region.

The workshop aims to achieve the following objectives:

- Present and discuss the policy toolkit seven modules;
- Build understanding of the overall scope of the water and energy nexus as a conceptual framework for advancing sustainable development;
- Discuss the benefits, opportunities and challenges of adopting a nexus approach for strengthening integrated natural resource management within the context of institutional and policy frameworks existing in the Arab region;
- Provide training on the policy tools and options for promoting integrated strategies, plans and policies on the water-energy nexus; and
- Exchange information on regional initiatives, projects and partnerships supporting Arab countries on the water, energy and food nexus.

All Participants of this workshop will be invited to identify a possible policy tool or instrument that can be applied to support the mainstreaming of water-energy nexus considerations at the national level. Interested ESCWA Member countries will be invited to prepare proposals for piloting or testing a policy tool or instrument at the national level in their respective countries. Up to three proposals will be accepted upon thorough review by ESCWA. Accepted proposals will receive technical support and advisory assistance from ESCWA to assist in piloting the tool or instrument at the national level. Lessons learned from these three pilot projects will be presented at the second policy workshop.

III. PARTICIPANTS

The meeting will bring together members of the ESCWA Committee on Energy and ESCWA Committee on Water Resources or their delegated representatives. Representatives from specialized Arab and international organizations will also contribute to the meeting to foster interactive discussion and exchange.

IV. ORGANIZATION OF THE MEETING

The workshop is organized by ESCWA and will be held at the Kempinski Hotel in Amman, Jordan from 30 to 31 October 2016. The meeting is expected to begin at 9:00 am and conclude by 5:00 pm each day. The registration desk will be open as of 8:30 am on Sunday, 30 October 2016. Arabic-English simultaneous interpretation will be available during the expert group meeting.

A block of rooms has been reserved for participants at the Kempinski Hotel Amman at the preferential room rate of US\$ 125 for a single room, inclusive of breakfast, internet access and all taxes. The hotel is located on Abdul Hamid Shouman Street in the Shmeisani commercial district where one can find restaurants, coffee shops and retail outlets. Kindly indicate on the registration form if you would like ESCWA to reserve a room for you at this hotel.

V. DOCUMENTATION

The meeting is supported by a “Water and Energy Nexus Policy Toolkit”, “ESCWA Water Development Report 6: Water, Energy and Food Security Nexus in the Arab Region” (E/ESCWA/SDPD/2015/2) and working paper on “Conceptual Frameworks for Understanding the Water, Energy and Food Security

Nexus in the Arab Region” (E/ESCWA/SDPD/2015/WP.2). Additional information is available on the meeting website: <https://www.unescwa.org/events/water-energy-nexus-policy-workshop>

VI. ADMINISTRATIVE ISSUES

Registered participants will receive the meeting agenda and a logistical information note detailing the meeting arrangements, suggested accommodations and other related matters. Sponsored participants will receive a daily subsistence allowance for up to three nights in Amman, a terminal allowance to cover their ground transportation to and from the airport, as well as a roundtrip economy class airline ticket to Amman issued on the least expensive route in accordance with United Nations Financial Rules and Regulations.

VII. CORRESPONDENCE

Correspondence and inquiries concerning the ESCWA Committee on Water Resources and ESCWA Committee on Energy should be addressed to:

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