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Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA)

United Nations Development Account Project on Developing the Capacities of the Arab Countries for Climate Change Adaptation by Applying Integrated Water Resources Management Tools

Workshop on Climate Change Adaptation in Human Settlements Using Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) Tools
Amman, 22-24 May 2016

INFORMATION NOTE

I. BACKGROUND

The United Nations Development Account Project on Developing the Capacities of the Arab Countries for Climate Change Adaptation by Applying Integrated Water Resources Management Tools project seeks to assist Arab Governments to build their capacity for climate change adaptation by applying integrated water resources management (IWRM) tools. This is sought by: (a) increasing understanding of climate change impacts on water resources and associated vulnerabilities to inform climate change adaptation policy-making; (b) providing a set of regionally appropriate IWRM tools for supporting climate change adaptation in five key sectors (agriculture, economic development, environment, health, and human settlements); and (c) enhancing knowledge of associated best practices in each of the five sectors that may be drawn upon to support the preparation of national and sector based adaptation and development plans. The project is led by the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) in cooperation with the United Nations Environment Program Regional Office for West Asia (UNEP/ROWA), and is implemented in partnership with the Arab Centre for the Studies of Arid Zones and Dry Lands (ACSAD), the Arab Countries Water Utilities Association (ACWUA), Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) and the World Health Organization Centre for Environmental Health Action (WHO/CEHA). This UNDA project builds on the results of the Regional Initiative for the Assessment of the Impact of Climate Change on Water Resources and Socio-Economic Vulnerability in the Arab Region (RICCAR) that is led by ESCWA and implemented by 11 League of Arab States (LAS) and United Nations organizations.

A training manual consisting of five complementary modules is being prepared within the context of the project. Each module focuses on one of the key sectors prepared by the specialized partner organization in that field. This workshop aims to present and test the draft module on Human Settlements that was prepared by ACWUA and ESCWA contributing experts. The training module aims to enhance the capacity of Arab Governments to incorporate IWRM tools into the management of human settlements as a means to adapt to climate change. It does so by proposing assessment tools, methods, policies and measures that can enhance the resilience of human settlements to climate change based on the outputs of the regional climate modelling projections generated under RICCAR. Specific focus is placed on adaptation measures and planning tools related to water supply and sanitation networks and associated infrastructure that can be affected by climate change and extreme weather events, such as floods and landslides. Conventional and non-conventional water management tools that are appropriate for use in water-scarce environments will also be discussed during the workshop.

II. OBJECTIVE

The main objectives of the workshop are to:

- Present the draft module on Human Settlements and training materials with experts in the sector;
- Test the identified IWRM tools and adaptation measures and their possible incorporation in regional and national policies and plans;
- Exchange experiences and case studies from Arab States on climate change adaptation in human settlements and discuss their possible inclusion in the draft module; and
- Discuss the finalization of the module based on the input received from the workshop participants.

III. PARTICIPANTS

The workshop will bring together experts from ministries and organizations working on human settlements and climate change resilience in cities, representatives from water utilities and service providers, members of the Arab Integrated Water Resources Management Network (AWARENET) as well as ACWUA and ESCWA representatives.

IV. ORGANIZATION OF THE MEETING

The workshop will be held at the Kempinski Hotel in Amman, Jordan from 22 to 24 May 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, 22 May 2016.

Arabic and English will be the working languages of the meeting. Simultaneous interpretation will be provided. The training materials and documentation for the workshop can be accessed from the meeting link on the following website: <https://www.unescwa.org/events/upcoming>

V. LOGISTICAL INFORMATION

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. A double room may be reserved for US\$145, all inclusive. 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. Airport taxis are easily available curbside outside the airport in Amman for a fixed fee of JD 22 to Shmeisani. Participants may otherwise arrange for airport transfers directly with the hotel.

Invited participants are kindly request to return their completed registration form to ESCWA no later than 18 April 2016 to allow sufficient time to make the necessary arrangements for their travel. Sponsorship cannot be guaranteed for registration forms received beyond that date. Participants are responsible for securing their own visa for travel to Jordan.

VI. CORRESPONDENCE

Correspondence and inquiries concerning the workshop should be addressed to:

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