



Distr.  
LIMITED  
E/ESCWA/SDPD/2017/WG.16/INF.1  
1 November 2017  
ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

---

## 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

Final Regional Policy Workshop on the Water-Energy Nexus  
Beirut, 11-12 December 2017

### INFORMATION NOTE

#### I. BACKGROUND

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development was adopted by the General Assembly in September 2015. It includes 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and 169 targets, which are transformative, universal and people-centred. The 2030 Agenda further states that the SDGs are integrated and indivisible. Understanding the interlinkages and interdependencies across the goals is thus of crucial importance in ensuring that progress is achieved on the new Agenda.

The water-energy nexus can be considered a principal means for advancing cross-sectoral understanding and collaboration through the economic, social and environmental pillars of development within a framework of good governance at the national level and of inter-state cooperation at the regional level. Evident policy and operational linkages exist between the SDG 6 targets focused on ensuring water and sanitation for all and the SDG 7 targets aiming to ensure access to energy for all. These are magnified when climate change considerations (articulated in SDG 13) and food security objectives (detailed in SDG 2) are considered within an integrated sustainable development context. The aim of drawing upon the nexus as a conceptual and operational framework is thus to improve natural resources management and advance the achievement of policy and performance objectives through an integrated lens.

The water-energy nexus also promotes increased stakeholder awareness of and engagement in the intersection between water and energy policymaking. This activates inclusive and integrated thinking about the economic, social and environmental implications of an intervention across various disciplines and stakeholder groups, which helps to maximize mutual benefits, while troubleshooting potential problems. Decision-makers and their advisors should thus review current and future development strategies and plans from a water-energy nexus perspective, and compare between the benefits of pursuing a nexus approach relative to the cost of operating under a business-as-usual scenario focused solely on sectoral policies.

With the objective of assisting member States in developing an integrated approach to the SDGs, ESCWA launched a project in 2015 funded by the United Nations Development Account entitled “Developing the capacity of ESCWA member countries to address the water and energy nexus for achieving sustainable development goals”. The project runs through December 2017. The project is implemented through two parallel and complementary tracks. The first targets high-level officials in energy and water ministries to promote the incorporation of the water-energy nexus considerations in the formulation of policies and strategies at the national and regional levels, as well as the implementation of pilot projects. The second track targets service providers and operators in the water and energy sectors.

Under the first track, senior policymakers and advisors are engaged in inter-sectoral analysis and action on the water-energy nexus. An initial regional workshop on water-energy nexus policies (Amman, 30-31 October 2016) was attended by members of the ESCWA Committee on Water Resources and ESCWA Committee on Energy or their designated representatives. The workshop was informed by the *Regional Policy Toolkit* that was launched by ESCWA in 2016, and which is comprised of seven modules covering the seven priorities identified at a joint consultative meeting of the two intergovernmental committees in June 2012. The seven priorities identified for capacity building support were: (1) knowledge and awareness raising; (2) policy coherence; (3) the water-energy security nexus; (4) efficiency; (5) technology choices; (6) renewable energy; and (7) climate change and natural disasters.

The policy toolkit thus examines how the water-energy nexus approach supports the formulation of integrated plans and policies across these priority areas, and discusses the benefits, opportunities and challenges resulting from the adoption of a nexus approach in the Arab regional context. Participants at the workshop also exchanged information on initiatives and partnerships assisting Arab countries on the nexus. At the closing of the workshop, participants were invited to propose pilot initiatives to promote the water-energy nexus at the national level. Three pilot projects were selected by ESCWA and were implemented in Egypt, the Syrian Arab Republic and Tunisia through the provision of technical support and assistance. Lessons learned from the three pilot initiatives will be shared during this final regional policy workshop convened under the project.

Under a second track, the project targeted service providers in the water and energy sectors, and examined the water and energy nexus from an operational perspective. An operational toolkit was prepared comprised of three technical modules on resource efficiency, renewable energy and technology transfer. Each module was discussed at a dedicated training workshops organized by ESCWA in 2017. The first regional workshop on “Efficient Resource Use” was held in Manama, Bahrain from 20 to 21 February 2017. The workshop engaged government officials responsible for overseeing the provision of water and energy services. Participants reviewed technology strategies suited to the Arab regional context, ways to improve the efficiency of resource production and consumption, and means for improving the delivery of water and energy services through an operational model and associated measures.

The second regional workshop focused on renewable energy and was held in Beirut, Lebanon from 11 to 12 July 2017. The workshop addressed the use of renewable energy technologies to improve water security and increased access to sustainable energy sources. This included discussion on how to provide sufficient energy resources for water-related activities, while also improving energy security by diversifying the national energy mix. This included discussion of strategies for pursuing the development of different energy resources that use less water, as well as effort that encourage water saving in energy production.

The third regional workshop was dedicated to “Technology Transfer” and was held from 30 to 31 October 2017 in Amman, Jordan. The workshop provided energy and water operators and sectors representatives with technology transfer insights that can be beneficial to integrate water-energy nexus considerations into their daily operations, activities and projects. This included discussion on barriers related to water-energy nexus when transferring new technologies and the requirements for creating an appropriate environment for technology transfer at national and Arab regional level.

This project reinforces the League of Arab States Regional Initiative on the Water, Energy and Food Nexus, which was launched under the auspices of the Arab Ministerial Water Council and Arab Ministerial Council for Electricity in 2015 and has been supported by the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH and ESCWA. ESCWA under this initiative is also implementing in partnership with the League of Arab States a complementary 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. This final regional policy workshop will thus benefit from lessons learned from implementing the initiative, and from the GIZ Nexus Regional Dialogue Programme, which will share its experience in promoting the water-energy-food nexus approach throughout the world, and its application in the German and European contexts.

## II. OBJECTIVES OF THE WORKSHOP

The main objective of the workshop is to strengthen the capacity of ESCWA member States to achieve an integrated and sustainable management of water and energy resources to advance the achievement of sustainable development in the Arab Region.

To do so, the workshop aims to achieve the following objectives:

- Take stock of the progress made on raising awareness and advancing work on the water-energy nexus within the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
- Review the key messages and lessons learned from the *Water-Energy Nexus Operational Toolkit*.
- Discuss the three pilot initiative implemented under the project and opportunities for implementing similar initiatives in the future;
- Discuss institutional mechanisms and integrated approaches for pursuing policy coherence in light of ensuring water and energy security at the regional and national levels;
- Exchange information on regional initiatives, projects and partnerships supporting Arab States on the water-energy nexus, as well as related areas such as food security and climate change.

All workshop participants will be invited to identify priorities and needs for further advancing the nexus approach at the regional, national and sub-national levels.

## 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 in Beirut, Lebanon from 11 to 12 December 2017. The venue will be communicated to registered participants, along with associated logistical information. On-site registration will begin at 8:30 am on Monday, 11 December 2017. The meeting will close by 5:00 pm on Wednesday, 12 December 2017.

Arabic-English-French simultaneous interpretation will be available during the expert group meeting.

## V. DOCUMENTATION

The meeting is supported by the following documents:

ESCWA, *Developing the Capacity of ESCWA Member Countries to Address the Water and Energy Nexus for Achieving Sustainable Development Goals: Regional Policy Toolkit*. E/ESCWA/SDPD/2016/Manual. Beirut: United Nations. Available at: <https://www.unescwa.org/publications/water-energy-nexus-regional-policy-toolkit>.

ESCWA, *Developing the Capacity of ESCWA Member Countries to Address the Water and Energy Nexus for Achieving Sustainable Development Goals: Water-Energy Nexus Operational Toolkit, Resource Efficiency Module*. E/ESCWA/SDPD/2016/Toolkit.1. Beirut: United Nations. Available at: <https://www.unescwa.org/publications/water-energy-nexus-sustainable-development-goals>.

ESCWA, *Developing the Capacity of ESCWA Member Countries to Address the Water and Energy Nexus for Achieving Sustainable Development Goals: Water-Energy Nexus Operational Toolkit, Renewable Energy Module*. E/ESCWA/SDPD/2017/Toolkit.2. Available at: <https://www.unescwa.org/publications/water-energy-nexus-renewable-energy-module>.

ESCWA, *Developing the Capacity of ESCWA Member Countries to Address the Water and Energy Nexus for Achieving Sustainable Development Goals: Water-Energy Nexus Operational Toolkit, Technology Transfer Module*. E/ESCWA/SDPD/2017/Toolkit.3. Available at: <https://www.unescwa.org/publications/water-energy-nexus-technology-transfer-module>.

*ESCWA Water Development Report 6: Water, Energy and Food Security Nexus in the Arab Region*. E/ESCWA/SDPD/2015/2. Available at: <https://www.unescwa.org/publications/escwa-water-development-report-6-water-energy-and-food-security-nexus-arab-region>.

ESCWA, Report on Intergovernmental Consultative Meeting on the Water and Energy Nexus in the ESCWA Region. E/ESCWA/SDPD/2012/IC.1/2/Report. Beirut, 27-28 June 2012. Available at: [https://www.unescwa.org/sites/www.unescwa.org/files/events/files/water\\_and\\_energy\\_nexus\\_in\\_escwa\\_region\\_report\\_e.pdf](https://www.unescwa.org/sites/www.unescwa.org/files/events/files/water_and_energy_nexus_in_escwa_region_report_e.pdf).

ESCWA, Regional Policy Workshop on the Water-Energy Nexus, 30-31 October 2016, Amman, Jordan. Documentation available at: <https://www.unescwa.org/events/water-energy-nexus-policy-workshop>.

ESCWA, Regional Capacity Building Workshop on the “Water - Energy Nexus Operational Toolkit: Resource Efficiency” 20-21 February 2017, Manama, Bahrain. Documentation available at: <https://www.unescwa.org/events/water-energy-nexus-operational-toolkit>.

ESCWA, Regional Capacity Building Workshop on the “Water-Energy Nexus Operational Toolkit: Renewable Energy” 11-12 July 2017, Beirut, Lebanon. Documentation available at: <https://www.unescwa.org/events/water-energy-nexus-operational-toolkit-RE>.

ESCWA, Regional Capacity Building Workshop on “Water-Energy Nexus Operational Toolkit: Technology Transfer” 30-31 October 2017, Amman, Jordan. Documentation is available at: <https://www.unescwa.org/events/workshop-water-energy-nexus-operational-toolkit-technology>.

GIZ, Nexus - The Water, Energy & Food Security Resource Platform. Available at: <https://www.water-energy-food.org/regions/nexus-dialogues>.

Additional information is available on the meeting website:

<https://www.unescwa.org/events/final-regional-policy-workshop-water-energy-nexus>

## VI. ADMINISTRATIVE ISSUES

Invited participants and those who are nominated by their ministries to attend this workshop are kindly requested to complete and return their registration form to ESCWA by 24 November 2017. Participants requesting financial support to participate in the meeting must return their completed registration form with a copy of their passport identification page to ESCWA no later than 15 November 2017 to be eligible for financial coverage.

Financial sponsorship covers the cost of roundtrip travel to Beirut, a daily subsistence allowance for each night of participation in the meeting, and a terminal allowance, as appropriate. Roundtrip airfare would be arranged by ESCWA in economy-class on the most direct, least cost itinerary. A daily substance allowance is provided to cover hotel room, meals and incidental expenses and is approximately US\$ 246/night in Beirut. A fixed

US\$152 terminal allowance is offered to cover the cost of roundtrip airport transfers. Financial support is provided in accordance with United Nations Financial Rules and Regulations.

Registered participants will receive the meeting agenda and a logistical information note detailing the meeting arrangements, suggested accommodations and other related matters.

## VII. CORRESPONDENCE

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

**Ms. Carol Chouchani Cherfane**  
Chief, Water Resources Section  
Sustainable Development Policies Division  
ESCWA  
Beirut, Lebanon  
Tel: + 961 1 981 518  
Fax: + 961 1 981 510 / 511 / 512  
E-mail: [chouchanicherfane@un.org](mailto:chouchanicherfane@un.org)

**Ms. Radia Sedaoui**  
Chief, Energy Section  
Sustainable Development Policies Division  
ESCWA  
Beirut, Lebanon  
Tel: + 961 1 981 527  
Fax: + 961 1 981 510 / 511 / 512  
E-mail: [sedaoui@un.org](mailto:sedaoui@un.org)

Correspondence and inquiries concerning the workshop should be addressed to:

**Mr. Ziad Khayat**  
First Economic affairs Officer, Water Resources Section  
Sustainable Development Policies Division  
ESCWA  
Beirut, Lebanon  
Tel: + 961 1 978 517  
Mobile: + 961 3 387 771  
Fax: + 961 1 981 510 / 511 / 512  
Email: [khayat@un.org](mailto:khayat@un.org)

**Ms. Dima Kharbotli**  
Research Assistant, Water Resources Section  
Sustainable Development Policies Division  
ESCWA  
Beirut, Lebanon  
Tel: + 961 1 978 575  
Fax: + 961 1 981 510 / 511 / 512  
Email: [Kharbotli@un.org](mailto:Kharbotli@un.org)