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Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA)

Committee on Energy
Tenth session
Amman, 22-23 March 2015

Item 3 of the provisional agenda

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ANNOTATIONS

1. Opening of the session

The tenth session of the Committee on Energy will begin at 9.30 a.m. on Sunday, 22 March 2015. The representative of Libya, the country that chaired the ninth session of the Committee on Energy, will give the welcome speech. Ms. Roula Majdalani, Director of the Sustainable Development Policies Division at ESCWA, will then give the opening speech on behalf of the Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations and Executive Secretary of ESCWA, Ms. Rima Khalaf. A representative of Jordan, the host country, will also give a welcome statement.

2. Election of officers

Rule 18 of the Rules of Procedure of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia states: “Member States shall chair the sessions of the subsidiary bodies of the Commission on a rotating basis, in the Arabic alphabetical order employed by the United Nations.* Unless the Commission decides otherwise, those bodies shall elect all their other officers”. Pursuant to that rule, Egypt, upon which the rotation by alphabetical order has fallen, shall chair the tenth session of the Committee on Energy, succeeding Libya, which chaired the ninth session from 12 June 2013 to 22 March 2015, the date of the tenth session. The Committee shall elect two vice-chairs and a rapporteur among the representatives of member States. Based on established practice, the vice-chairs shall be the representative of the country that chaired the previous session of the Committee (Libya) and the representative of the country that will chair the subsequent session (Morocco); and the rapporteur shall be the representative of the country succeeding the country of the second vice-chair (Saudi Arabia), according to the rotation by alphabetical order.

3. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters

Rule 8 of the Rules of Procedure of the Commission, which apply to subsidiary bodies, states: “At the beginning of each session, once the Chair has assumed his/her duties in accordance with rule 12, the Commission shall adopt the agenda for that session on the basis of the provisional agenda”. Pursuant to that rule, the Committee will have before it the provisional agenda and annotations for this session in document E/ESCWA/SDPD/2015/IG.1/L.1. It will also have before it the proposed organization of work in document E/ESCWA/SDPD/2015/IG.1/L.2. The Committee shall adopt the agenda and the organization of work as submitted or in amended forms.

4. Sustainable energy in the Arab region

The Committee will have a general debate on sustainable energy in the Arab region, on the basis of the following reports:

(a) Energy security and regional integration (E/ESCWA/SDPD/2015/IG.1/3(Part I))

This report explains the concept of energy security and the nexus between modern energy supply services and sustainable development. It presents an overview of the energy sector in the Arab region which shows much dissimilarity, especially in the oil and gas and electricity sectors. It also highlights the possibilities for expanding cooperation between Arab countries and promoting regional integration in the field of energy security. The report further proposes a plan for achieving Arab integration in specific promising areas in the energy sector while taking into consideration the priorities of each State.

* ESCWA member States in the Arabic alphabetical order are: Jordan, the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Tunisia, the Syrian Arab Republic, the Sudan, Iraq, Oman, Palestine, Qatar, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Egypt, Morocco, Saudi Arabia and Yemen.

Representatives of member States are invited to take note of the report and make comments and suggestions.

- (b) Technology adaptation policy and potential for local manufacturing of adequate renewable energy equipment (E/ESCWA/SDPD/2015/IG.1/3(Part II))

The document sets out renewable energy applications in Arab countries and underscores the need to adapt relevant technologies and develop local industries to manufacture adequate renewable energy equipment. It stresses the benefits of adaptation and manufacturing in line with local, climate, economic and social conditions. The document highlights the role of Arab national and regional plans and policies and international treaties in supporting adaptation and local manufacturing and proposes policies for inclusion in comprehensive national and regional development plans.

Representatives of member States are invited to take note of the report and make comments and suggestions.

- (c) Towards a regional agenda for the implementation of the United Nations Decade on Sustainable Energy for All (E/ESCWA/SDPD/2015/IG.1/3(Part III))

This report presents a blueprint of a regional agenda for the implementation of the United Nations Decade on Sustainable Energy for All 2014-2024, which was declared by the General Assembly in the framework of the “Sustainable Energy for All” initiative launched by the Secretary-General. It also contains the joint statement issued by the executive secretaries of the United Nations regional commissions at the fifth international Energy Forum for Sustainable Development which was held in Hammamat, in November 2014, as a road map for the prospected regional agenda for the implementation of the Decade.

Representatives of member States are invited to take note of the report and make comments and suggestions.

5. Natural resources management for sustainable development

The Committee will have a general debate on natural resources management in the framework of sustainable development, on the basis of the following reports:

- (a) The post-2015 development agenda from the perspective of the Arab region (E/ESCWA/SDPD/2015/IG.1/4(Part I))

This report presents a review of the progress achieved in the preparations for the post-2015 development agenda and sustainable development goals. It highlights future action at the regional and international levels and matters for consideration by Arab States at future negotiations on the agenda. The report also contains an Arab perspective analysis of issues related to energy and climate change in the framework of sustainable development.

Representatives of member States are invited to take note of the report and make comments and suggestions.

- (b) The energy-water-food nexus in the Arab region (E/ESCWA/SDPD/2015/IG.1/4(Part II))

This report highlights the problem of water scarcity in the Arab region. Most Arab countries are either on the brink of water poverty or are already suffering from it. This stresses the urgent need

for additional energy sources to produce, pump and supply fresh water, and to treat wastewater. Some countries such as Egypt, Iraq, Lebanon, Morocco and the Syrian Arab Republic used to produce high quantities of electricity; however this capacity has been reduced and will most likely diminish further due to the increasing consumption of electricity and to water scarcity, in addition to the need for more water in other sectors such as irrigation and agriculture. Food security policies have promoted the increase of agricultural crops which necessitates large quantities of water and energy. In addition, many regions in the world are geared towards biofuel production, which will affect water consumption and the prices of food and energy. This report presents an analysis of the energy-water-food nexus and mutual effects of relevant policies in the Arab region.

Representatives of member States are invited to take note of the report and make comments and suggestions.

The executive secretariat will conduct a panel discussion on the theme “Global fluctuations of oil and natural gas prices and their impact on the management of the energy sector in the Arab region”.

6. Progress achieved in the field of energy since the ninth session of the Committee on Energy

The Committee will be presented with two reports:

(a) Implementation of recommendations made by the Committee at its ninth session
(E/ESCWA/SDPD/2015/IG.1/5(Part I))

This report reviews the activities implemented and those planned for in the field of energy pursuant to the recommendations made by the Committee at its ninth session (Kuwait, 12-13 June 2013).

Representatives of member States are invited to take note of what has been implemented and make suggestions and recommendations in that regard.

(b) Implementation of energy-related activities under the ESCWA programme of work
(E/ESCWA/SDPD/2015/IG.1/5(Part II))

This report reviews the progress achieved in implementing energy-related activities under the ESCWA programme of work since the ninth session of the Committee.

Representatives of member States are invited to take note of the activities that have been carried out and make suggestions and recommendations in that regard.

The executive secretariat will give a PowerPoint presentation on “Scaling up energy efficiency projects”.

7. Proposed programme of work for the biennium 2016-2017 in the field of energy
(E/ESCWA/SDPD/2015/IG.1/6)

This document presents activities, outputs and projects proposed to be implemented by ESCWA in the biennium 2016-2017 in the field of energy. The programme of work was prepared in line with subprogramme 1, “Integrated management of natural resources for sustainable development”, of the revised strategic framework for the biennium 2016-2017, which was adopted by ESCWA at its twenty-eighth session (Tunis, 15-18 September 2014).

Representatives of member States are invited to review the proposed programme of work in the field of energy and provide comments and suggestions.

8. Date and venue of the eleventh session of the Committee on Energy

The eleventh session of the Committee on Energy is scheduled to be held in Beirut in December 2016, unless an invitation is extended by another member State to host it.

9. Other matters

This item shall cover any other matters that the members of the Committee may wish to discuss.

10. Adoption of the recommendations of the Committee on Energy

The Committee will consider the draft recommendations made at its tenth session for discussion and adoption.
