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Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA)

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

INFORMATION NOTE*1. Background*

The Committee on Energy was established pursuant to Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) resolution 204 (XVIII) of 25 May 1995, which was endorsed by Economic and Social Council resolution 1995/25 of 24 July 1995. The Committee on Energy comprises official representatives of ESCWA member States specialized in the field of energy. The decision to establish the Committee on Energy took into account the importance of the energy sector in the socioeconomic development in member States, especially given the various sources of energy in those countries which include in addition to oil and gas, renewable energy sources. This requires close regional cooperation between member States to improve their capacity to manage energy sources in an efficient and effective manner and to use renewable energy in achieving sustainable development.

The Committee on Energy holds its sessions biannually. It undertakes the following functions: (a) participating in the identification and formulation of priorities related to the ESCWA programme of work and medium-term plans in the field of energy; (b) monitoring progress achieved by member States in the field of energy; (c) monitoring the activities undertaken by the ESCWA executive secretariat in the field; following up regional and international conferences and the participation of member States in them and coordinating efforts to implement decisions and recommendations issued by those conferences.

2. Objectives

The tenth session of the Committee on Energy aims to discuss issues related to sustainable energy in the Arab region, namely energy security and regional integration; technology adaptation policy and potential for local manufacturing of adequate renewable energy equipment; and the implementation of the United Nations Decade on Sustainable Energy for All in the Arab region. Representatives of member States will also discuss the issue of natural resources management in the framework of sustainable development with a focus on the post-2015 development agenda from the perspective of the Arab region and the energy-water-food nexus. The session agenda also includes recurrent items on progress achieved in implementing the recommendations made by the Committee at its previous session and the energy-related activities under the ESCWA programme of work, in addition to the proposed programme of work for the biennium 2016-2017 in the field of energy. On the sidelines of the session, a joint meeting of the Committee on Energy and the Committee on Water Resources will be held on 24 and 25 March 2015 to discuss and coordinate action related to the energy-water nexus.

3. Agenda

The provisional agenda for the current session includes items and annotations related to the above-mentioned issues, and will be presented to the session in document E/ESCWA/SDPD/2015/IG.1/L.1.

4. Participants

Representatives of ESCWA member States will participate in the session. Relevant international and regional organizations and institutions and civil society organizations are also invited to attend the session as observers. Participating Governments shall be responsible for the travel and accommodation expenses of their representatives, in accordance with United Nations practice, which also applies to participating organizations.

5. Date and venue

The tenth session of the Committee on Energy will be held at Kempinski Hotel in Amman on 22 and 23 March 2015. Registration will commence at 9 a.m. on Sunday, 22 March 2015 and the opening session will convene at 9:30 a.m. on the same day. Session meetings will conclude at 3 p.m. on Monday, 23 March 2015.

6. Language of the session

Session proceedings will be in Arabic. English may be used to present some papers. Simultaneous interpretation from and into Arabic and English will be provided.

7. Accommodation and transportation

Following coordination with ESCWA, Kempinski Hotel in Amman is offering preferential rates to participants. Participants should provide the ESCWA secretariat with details regarding their travel, including airline, flight number and date and time of arrival and departure, in order to enable the secretariat to make the necessary arrangements for room reservation and airport pick-up with the hotel management.

The hotel address is:

Kempinski Hotel
Abdul Hamid Shouman Street
Shmeisani, 941045 Amman 11194
Tel. /Fax: 962 6 5200200
E-mail: reservations.amman@kempinski.com

8. Entry visas

Participants may apply for an entry visa to Jordan through the Jordanian Embassy in their respective countries. However, ESCWA may coordinate with the Government of Jordan to assist in obtaining entry visas for participants who are unable to secure visas in their home countries. Those who need assistance in this matter should send a colour, scanned copy of their passport containing all the required information to the ESCWA secretariat.

9. *Correspondence*

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

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