

Webinar:

Financing the Upscaling of Building Energy Efficiency Programs for Climate Change Mitigation and Sustainable Development in the Arab Region

Date & Time: Thursday, the 3rd of December 2020 from 1:00 P.M. to 3:00 P.M. Beirut Time(UTC+2) (12:00 P.M. – 2:00 P.M. Geneva Time (GMT+1))

Virtual Event Platform: KUDO

Languages: English with Simultaneous interpretation from and into the Arabic and French languages.

Background:

Improving energy efficiency (EE) is in line with SDG 7, 'Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all', and in particular target 7.2 'By 2030, double the global rate of improvement in energy efficiency', but also target 7.1 'By 2030, ensure universal access to affordable, reliable and modern energy services', since scaling up energy efficiency in the building sector will free up energy resources that can be used to extend services to other potential end users. Furthermore, scaling up energy efficiency in the residential sector will result in substantially lower energy consumption, thus lowering energy bills, allowing access to additional energy services by vulnerable segments of society, and reducing the risk of energy vulnerability in these segments. The non-energy benefits associated with energy efficiency projects can also contribute directly to other SDGs including: 1, 3, 5, 8, 6, 9, 10, 11, 12, 14 and 15.

Improving energy efficiency is recognised as an essential, but as yet under-exploited, part of efforts to mitigate climate change in particular in the Arab region which has historically had low levels of energy efficiency, with high levels of energy use per capita. To improve efficiency levels there is an unmet investment need and the immediate need is to scale-up investment into projects and programmes that increase efficiency across all sectors. However, there are a number of barriers to investing in energy efficiency which are universal, such as small project size and the difficulties of measuring results. There are also a number of Arab regional specific barriers which will need to be addressed in the design of any energy efficiency financing instrument. Energy efficiency finance is an emerging, and still relatively small compared to energy supply financing, speciality everywhere and there are lessons to be learnt from international experience.

The United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) and the Islamic Development Bank (IsDB) are joining their efforts to advise Arab countries on available instruments for financing sustainable energy transitions, identify suitable ways to make greater use of international financing means available for the building sectors, and build the capacity of member States to secure funding for sustainable energy transitions.

In this context, ESCWA jointly with the IsDB are organising a virtual meeting entitled "**Financing the Upscaling of Building Energy Efficiency Programs for Climate Change and Sustainable Development in the Arab Region**" on the **3rd December 2020, at 13:00~15:00 PM Beirut Time**. The overall objective of the Webinar is to present the findings of the study conducted by UNESCWA with the support of IsDB on the development of a "**Toolkit for Energy Efficiency Financing Instruments for Buildings in the Arab region**" and enhance the capacity and knowledge of participants from the Arab region on how to effectively develop financing

instruments for upscaling EE investments in the building sectors in their respective countries and integrate the implementation of related EE projects and programs into their national development plans.

The Webinar will address and discuss the following:

- Presents the progress of Arab region in EE, barriers and opportunities
- Sets out a number of international and regional examples of EE financing instruments
- Evaluate the effectiveness of policies on the ground in line with the existing international, regional, and national frameworks and contexts
- Identify strategies to address the financial barriers to upscaling EE in the building sector in the Arab region
- Propose smart market solutions and models to de-risk EE to guide the development of specific instruments in the Arab region

Agenda:

Setting the Scene and Moderator: Ms. Radia Sedaoui, Chief Energy at Climate Change and Natural resources Sustainability Cluster, ESCWA

Welcoming Remarks: (5 mins)

- Mr. Mohamed Alsayed, Manager Economic Infrastructure Division, IsDB
- Ms. Radia Sedaoui, Chief Energy at Climate Change and Natural resource Sustainability Cluster, ESCWA

Keynote Speaker (20 mins)

- Mr. Steven Fawkes, International expert in EE financing and ESCWA Consultant, UK

Panel Discussion: (60 mins)

- **Mr. Scot Foster**, Director of Sustainable Energy Division, UNECE
- **Mr. Ashok Sarkar**, Senior Energy Specialist, Energy and Extractives Global Practice, The World Bank
- **Mr. Nicholas Howarth**, Research Fellow III, Climate and Environment Program, KAPSARK
- **Ms. Helen Naser**, Advisor, Programme for Energy Efficiency in Buildings (PEEB), GIZ
- **Mr. Rafik Missaoui**, Sustainable Energy Economist, CEO Alcor, Tunisia
- **Ms. Kawther Lihidheb**, Senior Energy Efficiency Specialist, ECONOLER

Q&A (30 mins)

Closing remarks (5 mins):

- ESCWA and IsDB