



ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION FOR WESTERN ASIA (ESCWA)

Expert Group Meeting: “Tracking progress toward the implementation of energy related SDGs in the Arab Region”, 24-25 January 2017- Beirut, Lebanon.

DAY 1: Tuesday, 24 January 2017

8:30 – 9:00 Registration

09:00 – 09:20 OPENING SESSION AND INTRODUCTION

Moderator: *Ms. Wafa Aboul Hosn, Chief Economic Statistics Section, Statistics Division (SD)–ESCWA*

Welcoming Remarks:

Ms. Roula Majdalani, Director Sustainable Development Policies Division SDPD-ESCWA

Mr Juraj Riecan, Director Statistics Division SD–ESCWA

Tour de Table (10 min.)

09:20 – 09:25 Presentation of the Agenda & Expected Outcomes from the EGM

Ms. Radia Sedaoui, Chief Energy Section, SDPD–ESCWA

09:25 – 09:40 AGENDA 2030 - AN INTEGRATED APPROACH FOR ENERGY RELATED INDICATORS

Ms. Radia Sedaoui, Chief Energy Section, SDPD–ESCWA

09:40 – 12:00 SESSION 1: ENERGY ACCESS: AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY FOR ALL

Moderator: *Mr. Atef Marzouq, Interim Executive Director, Africa Energy Commission*

Universal access to modern energy remains one of the most fundamental pillars for facilitating modern-day socio-economic development. Most of the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) relate in one way or another to the objective of achieving universal energy access, poverty reduction, education for all, greater gender equality, decent work opportunities and economic growth. All the more striking is the experience of the Arab region in providing its citizens with access to electricity and Clean Fuel Technologies, which today is near-universal across many Arab economies. However, there are two main challenges that still characterize access:

- (i) A wide gap between the Arab Least Developed Countries (LDCs) – Mauritania, Sudan and Yemen – and the rest of the Arab region – North Africa, the Mashreq and the GCC; and*
- (ii) A considerable urban-rural divide, where urban access to electricity is substantially higher in countries with incomplete coverage than in rural areas.*
- (iii) While access in some countries may be close to universal, by recent data, many countries still experience service disruptions and power outages, the frequency of which differs significantly across countries.*

09:40 – 10:00 KEYNOTE PRESENTATION: Energy Access (EA) in the Arab Region

Ms. Laura El Katiri, ESCWA Consultant

10:00 – 10:15 Coffee Break

10:15 – 12:00 Panel Discussion 1: Energy Access in the Arab Region

Key guiding questions for discussion:

- What are the challenges in making modern energy access a universal good?
- For countries with incomplete access, what have been past success factors in raising access to electricity and CFTs?
- Are there avenues for cross-regional cooperation in terms of technology transfer, capacity building and flexible financing schemes?
- What impact does conflict and political instability have on energy access, and the quality of access over the tracking period 2012-2014?
- Is there Data Reporting Census at the Country level, data sources and major challenges for data shortcoming?

Panelists:

Mr. Shaaban Emhemed Zahhaf, Head of price statistics, Bureau of Statistics and Census - Libya

Mr. Mohamed Ould Yarguett Conseiller Technique du Ministre, Chargé de l'Electricité au Ministère du Pétrole, de L'Energie et des Mines, Mauritania

Mr. Ayman Fouad Ismail. General Manager, Palestinian Energy and natural Resources Authority, Palestine

Mr. Elalim Abdelghani Mohamed Hassan, Director of Economic Statistics Directorate Central Bureau of Statistics, Sudan

12:00 - 13:00 Lunch Break

13:00–15:00 SESSION 2: ENERGY EFFICIENCY: RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND SUSTAINABLE GROWTH

Moderator: *Mr. Joseph El Assad, Energy Advisor in the Ministry of Energy and Water, Lebanon*

In the medium- and long-run, energy efficiency (EE) is the low-hanging fruit in energy market management, helping countries effectively do more with less. Progress in energy efficiency across the Arab region has been slow, however. Energy intensity as a proxy for energy efficiency has declined gradually in the Arab region since 2010, albeit at -0.4% between 2012 and 2014 only slowly and with considerable inter-year variation. The net outcome contrasts trends in previous decades where regional energy intensity kept increasing, notably in contrast to most other parts of the world. Energy efficiency trends in the region differ widely between countries and sub-regions, owing to vastly different industrial profiles, and accompanying levels of socio-economic development, per capita income and government policies and priorities across Arab economies.

13:00 – 13:20 KEYNOTE PRESENTATION: Energy Efficiency in the Arab Region

Ms. Laura El Katiri, ESCWA Consultant

13:20 – 15:00 Panel Discussion 2:

Key guiding questions for discussion:

- What are the key areas for energy efficiency improvements by sector in the Arab region?
- What are the main challenges that have kept regional economies from realizing EE gains?
- Have international programmes been effective in helping countries increase their EE?
- Are there specific regional patterns of development that could be addressed at regional level to help increase the rate of EE investments and savings?
- Is there Data Reporting Census at the Country level, data sources and major challenges for data shortcoming?

Panelists:

Ms. Amal Ahmed Hassan Elshaieb, General Manager for Industrial statistics, Central Agency for Public Mobilization and Statistics, Egypt

Ms. Ahlem Bent Chedli Jelassi, Manager National Institute of statistics, Tunisia

Ms. Hanan Raheem Anead Al-Maliki, Senior Researcher, Ministry of Planning/Cso Baghdad, Iraq

Mr. Ali Bin Hamed Al-Ghafri, Assistant Chairman for International Relations and Media, Public Authority for Electricity and Water, Oman

15:00 – 15:15 Coffee Break

DAY 1: Tuesday, 24 January 2017 (Continued)

15:15 – 17:25 SESSION 3: RENEWABLE ENERGY- SUPPORTING ECONOMIC GROWTH AND CLIMATE ACTION

Moderator: *Mr. Ahmed Mohamed Mohina. Undersecretary of State for Authorities' Follow up, Ministry of Electricity, Egypt*

In light of the increasing global interest to address climate change and environmental issues, along with the changes in the world energy market, most Arab countries have adopted renewable energy (RE) strategies as an integral element in the national energy mix. However, RE has not yet played a significant role in the energy mix in the Arab region, despite the high potential of solar and wind energies. Traditional biomass is also considered as a cheap source of energy in some remote rural areas, particularly in the least developed countries in the region, hydro power is tapped only in the counties with river basins, and Modern biomass utilization as a source of energy is limited to modest applications in few Arab countries. But there are also positive developments, particularly during the present decade, in solar and wind power, which hold vast potential to help diversify the Arab region's energy mix in the future.

15:15 – 15:30 KEYNOTE PRESENTATION: Renewable Energy in the Arab Region

Ms. Laura El Katiri, ESCWA Consultant

15:30 – 17:25 Panel Discussion 3:

Key guiding questions for discussion:

- What are the key barriers to modern RE deployment in the Arab Region?
- To what extent can RE support social and economic development, particularly in the rural/ remotes areas?
- Is there Data Reporting Census at the Country level, data sources and major challenges for data shortcoming?
- What role for cross-regional cooperation and investment in “green” energy, taking into consideration Climate Change Agreements and COP22 outcomes?
- What are the plans and policy strategies of the governments of Arab countries for RE technologies to be nationally localized?

Panelists:

Ms. Sona Hilal Lutfi Abuzahra, Head of Environment Statistics Division, Department of Statistics, Jordan

Ms. Ahlem Bent Chedli Jelassi, Manager National Institute of statistics, Tunisia

Mr. Joseph El Assad, Energy Advisor in the Ministry of Energy and Water, Lebanon

Mr. Hussain Jaffar Abdulla Makki Ali Director of studies and International Relations Department. NOGA, Bahrain

Mr. Elalim Abdelghani Mohamed Hassan, Director of Economic Statistics Directorate Central Bureau of Statistics, Sudan

17:25 – 17:30 FIRST DAY WRAP UP

09:00 – 10:00 SESSION 4: CLIMATE CHANGE MITIGATION IN THE ARAB REGION
Moderator: Ms. Radia Sedaoui, Chief, Energy Section, SDPD – ESCWA

The sustainable development goals (SDGs) set in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development address Climate change (CC) in Goal 13, to take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts. The Goal has five targets and indicators on resilience, adaptive capacity and resource mobilization as well as a number of indicators. At its 47th session, the UN Statistical Commission urged countries to develop and strengthen climate change related statistics in order to measure and monitor those targets. With a view to improving the climate change related statistics collected by national compilers in the Arab region, ESCWA prepared a paper on the compilation of climate change related statistics and provided recommendations in the context of the 2030 agenda for sustainable development.

09:00 – 09:20 KEYNOTE PRESENTATION 4: The role of official statistics in the Arab region in support of the availability of the CC and energy related indicators for SDGs
Ms. Wafa Aboul Hosn, Chief Economic Statistics Section, SD-ESCWA

09:20 – 10:00 Panel Discussion 4

Key guiding questions for discussion:

- How do you find the role of official statistics in the Arab region in support of the availability of the climate change and energy related statistics in the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development?
- What are your views on the proposed set of indicators relevant to the region that assist in measuring priority sectors such as the energy sector in the Arab region and subregions?
- What are the challenges with NSOs in the Arab region to compile the indicators? (Institutional, Data, Coordination)
- How can we improve methods of compilation and availability of quality data that are accessible to the users (Surveys, Administrative Data, Big Data..)?

Panelists:

Mr. Hussain Jaffar Abdulla Makki Ali, Director of studies and International Relations Department (NOGA), Bahrain

Mr. Ahmed Mohamed Mohina. Undersecretary of State for Authorities' Follow up, Ministry of Electricity, Egypt

Ms. Hanan Raheem Anead Al-Maliki, Senior Researcher, Ministry of Planning/Cso Baghdad, Iraq

Mr. Ralf Becker, Chief, Industrial and Energy Statistics Section, UNSD

10:00 – 10:15 Coffee Break

10:15 – 13:00 SESSION 5: SUSTAINABLE ENERGY POLICY AND INVESTMENTS -WHAT ARE THE KEY CRITERIA TO ENSURE CONTINUOUS MONITORING?

Moderator: Ms. Radia Sedaoui, Chief, Energy SDPD – ESCWA

Policy instruments are a critical tool in countries' pursuit of more sustainable ways of enshrining developmental objectives into the development trajectory. Long-term structural objectives, such as universal energy access, a more energy efficient economy and the expansion of modern renewable energy technologies cannot be achieved by market forces alone. Good governance and sensible policy interventions can help build markets, reduce costs, and price as well as increase net benefits to society, for instance, universal access to modern, clean energy. Important developments in efficiency policies and delivery mechanisms, for example, can highlight good practices that have potential for replication, thus helping to accelerate uptake of more efficient technologies and practices.

10:15 – 13:00 Panel Discussion 5

Key guiding questions for discussion:

- What roles envisaged for EE, low-carbon technologies (RE, nuclear,...) and fossil fuels in future energy mix?
- What are the regional success stories in sustainable energy development (i) Industry; (ii) Transport; (iii) Utilities; (iv) Buildings and why?
- How the nexus of energy with water, food, climate change and economic growth are addressed in designing energy policies by the Arab countries?
- Has there been an effect of lower oil prices since mid-2014 on any areas of sustainable energy management? Have higher oil prices in 2012-14 positively or negatively impacted sustainable energy in the Arab region?
- Are national fuel and electricity subsidy reforms affecting the pace and priority given to national programmes in sustainable energy?
- What are the lessons learnt from the past for best practices in sustainable energy management in the Arab region?
- How coordination is ensured between policy design and indicators for monitoring and producing details country-level reports that can inform Government policy-makers?

Panelists:

Mr. Hussain Jaffar Abdulla Makki Ali Director of studies and International Relations Department. NOGA, Bahrain

Mr. Ahmed Mohamed Mohina. Undersecretary of State for Authorities' Follow up, Ministry of Electricity, Egypt

Ms. Aurore Feghaly, General Director of oil Ministry of Energy & Water Beirut, Lebanon

Mr. Mohammed AbdelFattah Mofleh ALDabbas, Ministers Advisor for Energy Affairs, Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources, Jordan

Mr. Ayman Fouad Ismail. General Manager, Palestinian Energy and natural Resources Authority, Palestine

Mr. Salaheldin Hassabelgabo Abdelrazig Ibrahim, Director, Department of Nuclear & Renewable Energy, Ministry of Water Resources & Electricity, Sudan

13:00 - 14:00 Lunch Break**14:00 – 15:30 Session 6: Practical Challenges: Data Collection and Validation**

Moderator: *Ms. Radia Sedaoui, Chief, Energy SDPD – ESCWA*

In all aspects of development, a sustained effort to build or strengthen data gathering capacity and analytical capability is required in most countries. The SE4All Global Tracking Framework (GTF) provided an approach for regular global reporting based on indicators that were feasible to compute from current global energy databases and that offered a scope for gradual improvement over time. The identification of suitable indicators required for the framework poses significant methodological challenges, and remedial actions are needed. Historically, due to the need to accommodate data deficiencies, the term energy access, for instance, has had no universally agreed-upon definition that reflected users' diverse energy needs and energy solutions. Energy intensity as a proxy for energy efficiency remains problematic, if not imprecise. In the context of agenda 2030, it will be necessary to measure properly the contribution that energy makes to the 2030 Agenda. This measurement will require developing indicators that target the desired outcomes, developing the capability to gather the data needed to track the indicators and working with Member States to develop and implement sustainable energy action plans that are founded on credible data.

Panel Discussion 6 : Update from the international organisations on their ongoing activities on the energy related SDGs indicators

Key guiding questions for discussion:

- How representative are currently selected indicators in monitoring progress at country and regional level in the context of SE4ALL and energy-related SDGs, in order to produce rigorous and computable data?
- What other indicators could be used ?
- What remedial actions are needed to accommodate national data deficiencies?
- How can we improve the quality of national data?
- How can we improve data accuracy while building an index that allows us to measure progress in sustainable energy production and consumption?
- How can we improve harmonization of methodologies for measuring SDGs and indicators related to energy resources?
- How can we improve coordination among international organisations to support national statistical capabilities in relation to energy data reporting system?

Panelists:

Ms. Wafa Abou El Hosn, Chief Economic Statistics Section, SD – ESCWA

Mr. Ralf Becker, Chief, Industrial and Energy Statistics Section, UNSD

Mr. Atef Marzouq, Interim Executive Director, Africa Energy Commission (AFREC)

Ms. Céline ROUQUETTE Head of Non member countries Section Energy Data Centre

International Energy Agency, International Energy Agency (IEA)

Mr. Tobias Rinke, Associate Programme Officer- Statistics and Investments, International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA)

Ms. Niki Angelou, regional Coordinator for the GTF, The World Bank (WB)

15:30 – 15:45 Coffee Break

15:45 – 16:45 Session 6: Practical Challenges: Data Collection and Validation (continuation)

Moderator: *Ms. Radia Sedaoui, Chief, Energy SDPD – ESCWA*

16:45 – 17:00 Wrap-up and Concluding Remark

Ms. Roula Majdalani, Director SDPD-ESCWA

Mr Juraj Riecan Director SD –ESCWA