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Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA)

Workshop on “Transitions to Renewable Energy and Sustainable Prosperity in Lebanon: The Role of Municipalities, Education and Future Scenarios for 2030”

ESCWA, Beirut – Lebanon, 23 September 2019

Agenda

Monday, 23 September 2019	
08:30 – 09:00	Registration <i>Sponsored participants are kindly asked to bring their passport, visa stamp and airline ticket stub to the meeting.</i>
09:00 – 09:30	Introductory Addresses
	Speakers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ms. Roula Majdalani, Director, Sustainable Development Policies Division, ESCWA - Dr. Ala'a Shehabi, Deputy Director, Institute for Global Prosperity, UCL
Session I	Session 1: Integrating Renewable Energy Technology at the Microscale Level in Urban and Rural Settings, and Measuring its Impact on Communities Affected by Mass Displacement
09:30 – 10:30	Chair: Professor Nick Tyler, the RELIEF Centre, Director of the UCL Centre for Transport Studies and Chadwick Professor of Civil Engineering Speakers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mr. Pierre Khoury, General Director and President of the Board, LCEC - Ms. Radia Sedaoui, Chief Energy Section, Sustainable Development Policies Division, ESCWA - Dr. Hassan Harajli, Project Manager, CEDRO Project, UNDP <p>National energy provision systems planning assumes energy access improvement through extension of the electricity grid. However, alternative microscale technology at the household, community and municipality level mean that the transition can take place at different scales. Whilst microscale technologies are often examined in the context of rural off-grid energy systems, we would like to explore the possibilities for decentralised forms of energy in both urban and rural settings. Particular focus will be given to the impact of integrating renewable energy technology at the microscale level upon those affected by mass displacement, including those who live in informal settlements.</p> <p>There are many creative and informal ways that local communities and municipalities have been able to compensate for the lack of a comprehensive, consistent and reliable</p>

	<p>provision and storage of energy in Lebanon. They could contribute to, and make more likely, a transition to renewable energy that does not solely rely on government-level political structures, or one that adds to the resilience of centralised power. This could have significant impact on access to energy for households living in informal settlements in Lebanon in particular, which are further restricted as the Lebanese government is not responsible for their energy services (this has tended to fall to individual families and the humanitarian and development agencies working in the area). They also open up opportunities for small business job creation, social inclusion and opportunities for women's empowerment.</p> <p>This session will focus on micro-scale, community-led energy initiatives in Lebanon within the context of informal settlements. It asks:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ What is the current state of renewable energy supply in Lebanon and what options, proposed programme of work and evaluation exists within the Lebanon Crisis Response Plan 2017-2020 (LCRP) to integrate regulatory reforms and incentives for individual, community, municipal microscale tech deployment? ➤ What are the opportunities for alternative micro-scale energy technologies in Lebanon to complement the government's existing approach? How are communities innovating in different informal contexts? ➤ Where is the intersection with infrastructure (housing, health, water, sanitation for example) and energy services at the community level? Are there opportunities to provide better energy services through upgrading local infrastructure and might this be integrated with other planned or ongoing local work programmes? ➤ How can small-scale renewable energy applications support social inclusion, entrepreneur development and women empowerment? ➤ Where do technological innovations in renewable energy take place? How can we maximise their value and potential across different sectors? <p>Moderated discussion</p>
10:30 – 10:45	Refreshments
Session II	Energy Equity, Justice and the Provision of Modern Energy Services to Vulnerable Populations: The Perspective of Municipalities
10:45 – 11:45	<p>Chair: Mr. Jil Amine, Sustainable Development Officer, Energy Section, Sustainable Development Policies Division, ESCWA</p> <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mr. Mohamad Khalil, Mayor of Akkar El Atika Municipality, Lebanon - Mr. Paul Saoud, Mayor Chaqdouf Municipality, Lebanon - Ms. Nadine Saba, Board President and Project Director, Akkar Network for Development (AND) <p>Access to electricity in Lebanon through decentralised generation renewable energy systems, could have transformative impacts both in terms of directly improving the everyday lives of people at the household level and enabling them to be recognised as urban citizens through the provision of services. This applies particularly to vulnerable communities living in urban settings. This session will explore:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The experience and interest of municipalities in facilitating renewable energy transitions in these areas. ➤ The key challenges faced in providing affordable, reliable and sustainable energy access to refugees and displaced people.

	<p>➤ How community-led innovations in energy in different informal contexts are being led and supported.</p> <p>Moderated discussion</p>
Session III	Raising Energy Literacy
11:45 – 12:45	<p>Chair: Dr. Christian Khalil, Assistant Professor, Environmental Toxicology, Lebanese American University</p> <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Professor Diana Laurillard, Professor of Learning with Digital Technology, University College London - Ms. Laurie Haytayan, Middle East and North Africa Director, Natural Resource Governance Institute <p>Energy literacy among all energy consumers is required for a better understanding of the need for sustainable energy supply, the different technologies available, and cost management. It is difficult for individual consumers to navigate the market for most of this imported technology. It is also difficult for municipalities to build cost-benefit analysis and long-term planning to implement renewable energy projects whilst navigating a difficult political and legal terrain.</p> <p>This session asks:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ What educational initiatives are required to push a shift in demand preferences at different scales? ➤ What programmes exist in schools and how might education and awareness at this level be enhanced? ➤ Are vocational training courses targeting the right skills set for future markets for energy services? What more could be done in this area? ➤ How could a course or a MOOC (Massive Open Online Course) be designed for municipalities and others to begin to build institutional capacities to manage an energy transition? <p>Moderated discussion</p>
12:45 – 14:30	Lunch
Session IV	Financing the Renewable Energy Transition: Finding the Community and Business Alternatives to Accelerate a Green Energy Transition and Equitable Energy Supply
14:30 – 16:15	<p>Chair: Ms. Jessica Obeid, Academy Associate, Energy, Environment and Resources Department, Chatham House</p> <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ms. Ariane Brunel, Principal Banker in Energy EMEA Team, EBRD - Mr. Chadi Abou Nohra, Head of Unit Environmental Lending Coordinator Corporate Banking, Audi Bank - Mr. Mongi Bida, First Economic Affairs Officer, ESCWA <p>Globally, increasing interest in the investment and development of renewable energy is bringing benefits to communities as well as private investors. There are already examples of co-owned, small-scale, locally-led renewable energy initiatives in Lebanon that engage the community in their business models.</p> <p>With this in mind, this session asks:</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Which financial models are available to increase the uptake of new renewable energy services and technology in Lebanon? ➤ What can be done to scale up solutions and improve financing for renewable energy projects in displacement settings? ➤ Which ownership models are plausible for community renewable energy schemes in selected municipalities across Lebanon? (Hybrid models of ownership, such as partnerships between commercial developments, community organisations and local authorities will be discussed). <p>Moderated discussion</p>
16:15 – 16:30	Break
Session V	A People-Centred Prosperous Future: What future scenarios for 2030 can we imagine for Lebanon's energy supply in the context of the climate emergency?
16:30– 17:30	<p>Chair: Ms. Zeina Al Hajj, Executive Director of Greenpeace, MENA</p> <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ms. Lea Kai, Project Manager, Climate Change Projects, Ministry of Environment, Lebanon - Mr. Marc Ayoub, Research Assistant and Policy Analyst, Issam Fares Institute for Public Policy and International Affairs, American University of Beirut <p>The influences of climate change on general social instability are intimately and inextricably linked. These instabilities can play a part in leading to mass exodus, the consequences and management of which is complex for the populations and countries involved. Separating these influences and trying to quantify them is difficult. This is made all the more challenging by the chronic lack of data about energy use and demand in Lebanon, particularly for those in rural areas, but also for the urban poor living in rapidly urbanising areas and in informal settlements.</p> <p>What are the dimensions of the 2030 scenarios that look at the future relationship between climate change, energy and mass displacement? Imagining future possibilities based on the known knowns and known unknowns and working backwards can lead to effective management methods.</p> <p>This session asks what action we need to take, or conversations do we need to have, or data we need to collect to encourage the best possible scenario and avoid the worst scenarios imagined.</p> <p>Moderated discussion</p>
17:30 – 17:35	Closing Remarks
17:35	Drinks Reception