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Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA)

Focus Group Meeting on the “Regional Initiative for Promoting Small-Scale Renewable Energy Applications in rural areas of the Arab Region (REGEND)”

Beirut, Lebanon, 13 March 2019

Information note

The economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) is organizing, in collaboration with the Lebanese Centre of Energy Conservation (LCEC), a Focus Group meeting with the aim of determining the local communities where the project activities of the “Regional Initiative for Promoting Small-Scale Renewable Energy Applications in rural areas of the Arab Region REGEND” will be undertaken. The meeting will be held in Beirut, Lebanon on the 13th of March 2019 in the UN ESCWA HQ.

1. Background information

The economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) is implementing the “Regional Initiative for Promoting Small – Scale Renewable Energy Applications in rural areas of the Arab region (REGEND)”. This regional initiative is a Sida funded project and includes several partners in implementation such as League of Arab States (LAS), line ministries, local authorities, various regional organizations and Arab Women associations, UN organisations, local and regional NGOs, Research institutions and Academia.

This project aims to improve the livelihood, economic benefits, social inclusion and gender equality of Arab rural communities particularly marginalized groups, by addressing energy poverty, water scarcity and vulnerability to climate change and other natural resources challenges in four targeted countries, namely: Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco and Tunisia.

This Focus group meeting is intended to permit collecting data and information at the rural level of Lebanon and to identify the opportunities, challenges and constraints for achieving social and economic equity in the rural areas of Lebanon.

2. Objectives and topics of the Focus Group Meeting

In order to identify local communities where the project activities will be undertaken and engage with key national stakeholders in rural areas of Lebanon, a Baseline Study is launched to address the socio economic and political dynamics and environmental consideration linked to productive activities by sector, access to energy services requirements and availability of sources of energy supply, and associated technologies needed to support resilience in rural community. To this end, the Focus Group meeting is organised, by ESCWA jointly with the LCEC, where relevant components of the project national activities will be presented, and brainstorming will be conducted around the opportunities and challenges of rural development in Lebanon and identification local rural community where project activities could be undertaken.

Participants at the meeting will be addressing the following:

- The opportunities and potential rural areas for implementation of the REGEND Project
- The common challenges and barriers to improving social and economic conditions
- The productive activities with growth potential
- Any experience with renewable energy integration in rural community

3. Participants

ESCWA and LCEC will seek the participation in the Focus Group Meeting of representatives of the main stakeholders that will be solicited during the development of the project in Lebanon, and engage in a discussion with them to determine the role of the key stakeholders in this project.

4. Date and Venue

The Focus Group Meeting will be held in Beirut on the 13th of March 2019 at UN ESCWA HQ. Registration is scheduled for 8:30 a.m. on the day of the meeting, and the opening session shall be at 09:00 a.m.

5. Language of the Focus Group Meeting

Seminar materials will be presented in either Arabic or English.

6. Correspondence

All correspondence related to the seminar is to be sent to either of the two addresses:

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