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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)”

UN-ESCWA, Beirut – Lebanon, 18 June 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 finalizing the assessment phase and selection of the local community 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 also initiate the establishment of the Local Facilitating Team (LFT). The meeting will be held in Beirut, Lebanon on the 18<sup>th</sup> of June 2019 at 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 and Tunisia.

#### 2. Objectives of the Focus Group Meeting

Based on the Baseline Study that was launched in early 2019 to address the socio economic and political dynamics and environmental consideration linked to productive activities, energy access, and associated technologies needed to support resilience in rural community, the Focus Group Meeting is organised by ESCWA, jointly with the LCEC, to assess the results of the Baseline Study, the selection of the local community where the project activities will be undertaken, and the way forward. This will lead to the finalization of the selected local community as well as initiating the establishment of the LFT.

### 3. Participants

ESCWA and LCEC will seek the participation in the Focus Group Meeting of representatives of the main stakeholders involved during the development of the project and the assessment study in Lebanon and engage in a discussion with them to finalize the selection of the local community where the project activities will be undertaken as well as the establishment of the LFT.

### 4. Date and Venue

The Focus Group Meeting will be held in Beirut on the 18<sup>th</sup> of June 2019 at the UN-ESCWA HQ, Room F-400.

Registration is scheduled for 8:30 A.M. on the day of the meeting, and the opening session shall be at 9:00 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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