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**Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA)**

Committee on Energy  
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Item 8 of the provisional agenda

**PROGRAMME OF WORK AND THE BUDGET PROPOSED  
FOR THE WORK OF ESCWA IN THE FIELD OF ENERGY  
FOR THE BIENNIUM 2008-2009**

**Summary**

This document sets forth the draft programme of work for the biennium 2008-2009 in the energy sector, for consideration by the members of the Committee on Energy. The draft programme of work is part of subprogramme 1: Integrated management of natural resources for sustainable development, of the ESCWA strategic framework for the biennium 2008-2009, which encompasses energy, water, environment and the productive sectors and will be implemented by the Sustainable Development and Productivity Division.

The Committee is invited to comment, make recommendations and prioritize, as appropriate, on the components of the programme of work that pertain to the energy sector. The programme will be submitted to the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Issues and the Fifth Committee of the General Assembly, which will consider the whole programme of work of ESCWA for the biennium 2008-2009 and its financial implications. The Committee is also requested to provide advice to the secretariat with regard to the extent that the proposed services and products respond to the needs of major beneficiaries and, in particular, national Government officials dealing with energy issues related to development in the ESCWA region which are likely to contribute towards the realization of the expected accomplishments (a), (b), (c) and (d) specified in the framework set forth in paragraph 4 of this document.

## Introduction

1. The draft programme of work for the biennium 2008-2009 in the energy sector is hereby submitted to Committee on Energy for consideration and comment. The proposed activities have been formulated as part of subprogramme 1 of the ESCWA strategic framework for the biennium 2008-2009, that was adopted by the Commission at its twenty-fourth session, which was held in Beirut from 8 to 11 May 2006,<sup>1</sup> as amended by the United Nations Programmes and Coordination Committee and set forth in the report of the Committee on its forty-sixth session, held in New York from 14 August to 8 September 2006,<sup>2</sup> in accordance with the United Nations programme planning rules and regulations.<sup>3</sup>

2. In preparing the draft programme of work, the secretariat, mindful of existing commitments and frameworks and their comparative advantages, gave due consideration to the following:

(a) The main problems that currently affect Western Asia, including issues that emerged during the implementation of the ESCWA programme of work for 2004-2005;

(b) Efforts to promote the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation in West Asia, adopted at the conclusion of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) in September 2002, and to build on the achievements realized since the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development was held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, in 1992, with the focus on the sustainable management of natural resources and poverty alleviation;

(c) Regional implications of the outcome of the twenty-fourth ESCWA session;

(d) The outcome of the fourteenth and regional preparatory meetings for the fifteenth sessions of the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD), concerning energy for sustainable development, industrial development, air pollution and climate change.

3. When considering the draft programme of work in the energy sector, the Committee is requested to focus on the services and products proposed for delivery to the principal beneficiaries in paragraph 10 of this document. The Committee is also requested to advise the secretariat on the extent to which the proposed services and products meet the needs of the principal beneficiaries and, in particular, Government officials dealing with energy issues in the ESCWA region, and are likely to contribute to the realization of the four expected accomplishments (a), (b), (c) and (d) that are specified in paragraph 4 of this document. Delivery of services and products is subject to the availability of regular and extrabudgetary resources. The Committee may wish to note that the ongoing United Nations reform could affect the level of regular budget allocations to ESCWA, in which case the secretariat will consult member countries on the reprioritization of services and products proposed in the draft programme of work.

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<sup>1</sup> ESCWA, "Management issues: Draft strategic framework for the biennium 2008-2009" (E/ESCWA/24/6(Part III)); and ESCWA resolution 269 (XXIV) of 11 May 2006 on the role of ESCWA in the light of the 2005 World Summit Outcome Document and the subsequent change process.

<sup>2</sup> General Assembly, "Proposed strategic framework for the period 2008-2009 – Part two: biennial programme plan, Programme 18, Economic and social development in Western Asia" (A/61/6 (Prog. 18)).

<sup>3</sup> United Nations, "Regulations and rules governing programme planning, the programme aspects of the budget, monitoring of implementation the methods of evaluation" (ST/SGB/2000/8).

**I. DRAFT PROGRAMME OF WORK FOR THE BIENNIUM 2008-2009  
IN THE ENERGY SECTOR, AS SET FORTH IN SUBPROGRAMME 1:  
INTEGRATED MANAGEMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**

**A. OBJECTIVE, EXPECTED ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND INDICATORS OF ACHIEVEMENT**

4. Set forth below is the framework for subprogramme 1: Integrated Management of Natural Resources for Sustainable Development, as adopted by ESCWA at its twenty-fourth session.

**Aim:** To improve the sustainable management of natural resources in the region, with particular emphasis on water, energy and production sectors, taking into account environmental considerations

<b>Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat</b>	<b>Indicators of achievement</b>
(a) Enhanced capacity of member countries to formulate, adopt and implement policies and measures to improve the sustainable management of natural resources, with particular emphasis on the fulfilment of the Millennium Development Goals	(a) (i) Increased number of policies and measures adopted by member countries of the region for achieving the Millennium Development Goals (goals 1 and 7)  (ii) Increased number of member countries developing, adopting and/or implementing policies and measures to improve the sustainable management of energy and water resources
(b) Enhanced capacity of member countries to apply best practices and methods for improving sustainable rural development and increasing competitiveness of the small and medium enterprises using environmentally sound technology	(b) (i) Increased number of member countries applying best practices and methods to promote sustainable rural development  (ii) Increased number of measures and best practices or initiatives adopted to enhance the competitiveness of small and medium enterprises using environmentally sound technology
(c) Improved regional and interregional cooperation among member countries on energy and water issues, including the prevention of water and environment-related disputes	(c) (i) Increased number of member countries requesting ESCWA to enhance their negotiation skills for the joint management of shared water resources  (ii) Increased number of regional/interregional projects and actions undertaken by member countries through regional cooperation mechanisms on water and energy

**B. STRATEGY**

5. The responsibility for implementing this subprogramme lies with the Sustainable Development and Productivity Division. The subprogramme will concentrate on facilitating the formulation and implementation of sustainable development strategies, policies and programmes in light of the relevant global mandates arising from the 2005 World Summit, the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation and the Millennium Development Goals, particularly goal 1 (eradicate extreme poverty and hunger) and goal 7

(ensure environmental sustainability), including improved access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation to a wider section of the region's population. The subprogramme will continue to advocate sustainable production and consumption patterns of water and energy resources and serve as a forum for promoting policy dialogue as a means to enhance synergy among the countries of the region on sustainable development priority issues; facilitate regional cooperation, in particular in the management of shared water resources and the development of energy networks, and enhance negotiation skills to prevent water and environment-related disputes; support national and regional capacity-building, especially in the field of integrated management of water resources, energy efficiency, renewable energy and technology applications; and assist member countries in building capacity for sustainable rural development.

6. Subprogramme 1 will concentrate on facilitating the formulation and implementation of sustainable development strategies, policies and programmes in light of the relevant global mandates arising from the 2005 World Summit, the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation and the Millennium Development Goals, particularly goal 1 (eradicate extreme poverty and hunger) and goal 7 (ensure environmental sustainability), including improved access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation to a wider section of the region's population.

7. The subprogramme will continue to advocate sustainable production and consumption patterns of water and energy resources and serve as a forum for promoting policy dialogue as a means to enhance synergy among the countries of the region on sustainable development priority issues; facilitate regional cooperation, in particular in the management of shared water resources and the development of energy networks, and enhance negotiation skills to prevent water and environment-related disputes; support national and regional capacity-building, especially in the field of integrated management of water resources, energy efficiency, renewable energy and technology applications; and assist member countries in building capacity for sustainable rural development.

8. This will be achieved by undertaking research and analytical studies, convening meetings and seminars, disseminating best practices and building capacity through workshops and advisory services on priority sustainable development issues related to water, energy, the environment and the production sectors.

9. The subprogramme will also further develop its partnership with the League of Arab States (LAS), promote the existing ESCWA regional mechanisms on energy and water, facilitate the establishment of coordination mechanisms for monitoring and reporting on environmental issues and assist member States to strengthen the capacity of small and medium enterprises to take advantage of new management practices and the harnessing of technologies that can enhance their competitiveness and productivity in a sustainable manner.

#### C. EXTERNAL FACTORS

10. The subprogramme can achieve the expected accomplishments on the assumption that: (a) member countries are willing to adopt and apply sustainable development policies advocated by world summits and by global and regional conferences; (b) there are no significant shortfalls in funding; and (c) political stability is improved, thereby allowing for a better cooperative environment among member countries in the region as well as a more effective implementation of technical cooperation.

#### D. PROPOSED ACTIVITIES AND SERVICES

11. Subprogramme 1 contains all the activities and services that have been proposed by the ESCWA secretariat for the biennium 2008-2009 in the field of integrated management of natural resources for sustainable development. Set forth below are activities and services in the field of energy:

## **Area 1. Servicing of intergovernmental and expert bodies**

### **(a) *Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia***

Report to the Commission of the seventh session of the Committee on Energy (date of implementation: 2008; contribution to realization of expected accomplishments (a) and (c)).

### **(b) *Committee on Energy***

- (i) Substantive servicing of the four meetings of the seventh session of the Committee on Energy (date of implementation: 2008; related to expected accomplishments (a) and (c));
- (ii) Parliamentary documentation: reports on 10 year framework for sustainable energy production and consumption in ESCWA member countries; and means of promoting the ESCWA region as an attractive market for emission trading through Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) projects (date of implementation: 2008; related to expected accomplishments (a) and (c)).

### **(c) *Ad hoc expert groups***

- (i) The role of energy networks in Arab regional integration (date of implementation: 2008; related to expected accomplishment (c));
- (ii) Best practices for promoting renewable energy applications in the ESCWA region (date of implementation: 2009; related to expected accomplishment (a)).

### **(d) *Assistance to intergovernmental bodies and/or United Nations representatives/rapporteurs***

Substantive support to the executive secretariat of the ESCWA-UNEP-LAS Joint Committee on Environment and Development in the Arab Region (JCEDAR) and the Council of Arab Ministers for Electricity (date of implementation: 2008, 2009; related to expected accomplishments (a), (b) and (d)).

## **2. Other substantive activities**

### **(a) *Recurrent publications***

Contribution to *Review of productivity and sustainable development activities* (date of implementation: 2009; related to expected accomplishment (b)).

### **(b) *Non-recurrent publications***

- (i) Study on improving energy efficiency in the downstream energy production sub-sectors in selected ESCWA member countries (date of implementation: 2009; related to expected accomplishment (c));
- (ii) Study on the enhancement of regional cooperation on issues related to energy for sustainable development and the Millennium Development Goals in ESCWA member countries (date of implementation: 2009; related to expected accomplishment (c)).

### **(c) *Technical material***

Fact sheets on best practices and tools for large-scale deployment of renewable energy and energy efficiency techniques (date of implementation: 2009; related to expected accomplishment (a)).

(d) *Electronic issuances*

Development and maintenance of the ESCWA Internet site on water, energy, productivity and sustainable development (date of implementation: 2008-2009; related to expected accomplishments (b) and (c)).

(e) *Booklets, pamphlets, fact sheets, wall charts, information kits*

(i) Development of promotional material on energy issues in the region (date of implementation: 2009; related to expected accomplishments (a) and (c));

(ii) Information kit for the Committee on Energy (date of implementation: 2009; related to expected accomplishments (a) and (c));

(iii) Development and refinement of Arabic terminology in the field of productivity and sustainable development (date of implementation: 2009; related to expected accomplishment (a)).

(f) *Organization of interagency meetings and substantive contribution to joint outputs*

Substantive support to United Nations coordination bodies, regional and global forums on water, energy, the environment and productive sectors (date of implementation: 2008-2009; related to expected accomplishments (a), (b), (c) and (d)).

3. *Technical cooperation (extra-budgetary)*

(a) *Advisory services*

Advisory missions at the request of member countries on issues related to sustainable development (date of implementation: 2008-2009; related to expected accomplishments (a) and (c)).

(b) *Field projects*

(i) Capacity-building in renewable energy technology applications for poverty alleviation in rural areas in ESCWA member countries (date of implementation: 2008-2009; related to expected accomplishment (a));

(ii) Capacity-building in energy efficiency improvement measures in selected ESCWA member countries (date of implementation: 2008-2009; related to expected accomplishment (a)).