



Distr.  
LIMITED  
E/ESCWA/SDPD/2010/WG.2/INF.1  
17 March 2010  
ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

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

Expert Group Meeting on "Promoting SMEs Sector Participation in Implementing  
Energy Efficiency/Renewable Energy Projects"  
Beirut, 28-29 April 2010

### INFORMATION NOTE

The Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) is organizing an Expert Group Meeting (EGM) on "Promoting Small and Medium Enterprises SMEs Sector Participation in Implementing Energy Efficiency/Renewable Energy Projects", to be held at the UN House, Beirut, on 28 and 29 April, 2010. The EGM is being organized in cooperation with the Arab Union for Youth and Environment/League of Arab States and the Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (ISESCO).

#### 1. *Background information*

Unemployment is a principal concern facing sustainable development, particularly in the Arab region. The financial crisis witnessed during the past two years, increased unemployment rates especially among the youth, this leads to the need to encourage national and regional efforts aiming at the creation of new and promising employment opportunities for the youth, in order to avoid social migration and associated negative socio-economic effects.

Given that small and medium enterprises constitute an essential foundation for the economic structure of each country-both in terms of their contribution to the creation of new employment opportunities for the youth, thus reducing unemployment among them, and in terms of their role in ensuring an increase in Gross Domestic Product (GDP)-development programs should dedicate

Appropriate attention to efforts to develop and empower such enterprises. Simultaneously, ensuring the sustainability of the energy sector in countries of the region, and the requirements associated with facing climate change risks, have lead to the adoption of policies for improving energy efficiency, and developing the uses of renewable energy sources, with their associated industrial and artisanal activities, which could all allow for the establishment of small and medium industries and operational activities. Such industries and activities would provide direct and indirect employment opportunities in the different areas of the energy sector.

The past two decades witnessed the development of many renewable energy technologies in the world, and practical applications in several areas with reasonable and considerate costs were introduced. This made it possible for renewable energy sources to contribute to the basic needs of energy services with different capacities. In this context, the use of renewable energy technologies to meet the needs of rural and remote areas could contribute to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals, particularly Goal 1 on eradicating extreme poverty and hunger, and Goal 7 on ensuring environmental sustainability.

The Arab region is endowed with abundant renewable energy sources, especially solar, wind and biomass energy. Arab countries have exerted varying efforts to conduct inventories and assessments of their renewable energy sources, and to improve the use of renewable energy technologies. Despite some

successful experiences in this domain-including large-scale electricity production from solar and wind energy-renewable energy applications in the Arab region are still limited, and have not been extensively used to an extent which would fill the existing gap in energy services.

Based on the above, the will of the organizing parties at the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA), the Arab Union for Youth and Environment (Arab League) and the Organization of the Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (ISESCO), concurred with the organization of this EGM in conjunction with their activities for the year 2010.

## *2. Objectives and Topics*

The EGM aims at presenting and discussing the potentials of creating employment opportunities for the youth through the establishment and activation of Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) and activities for energy services especially in the areas of improving energy efficiency and renewable energy. These would include equipment manufacturing and marketing, and project design and implementation activities, in addition to their associated implementation, operational and maintenance services. The day following the EGM (30 April 2010) will be dedicated for youth activities and field visits organized by the Arab Union for Youth and Environment (League of Arab States).

The meeting will cover the following key themes:

- (a) Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs): Regulatory and legislative frameworks (holistic approach);
- (b) Improving energy efficiency, "potentials and priorities" in the Arab States;
- (c) Renewable energy technologies and its global and regional development/"holistic approach";
- (d) Available areas for SMEs in related energy sector fields;
- (e) Required policies for enabling SMEs to achieved successful activities in the energy services field;
- (f) Challenges facing SMEs in the sector and opportunities for achieving success;
- (g) The role of Governments, regional organizations, NGOs and youth organizations in promoting SMEs, particularly in the areas of energy production and consumption.

## *3. Participants*

Representatives from Arab countries, research centers and universities, the private sector, non-governmental organizations, and concerned regional and international organizations will participate in the Meeting; the following will also be invited:

- (a) National experts representing bodies concerned with the topic of this Meeting from Arab countries;
- (b) Representatives from the League of Arab States (LAS), Arab organizations, United Nations organizations and concerned Regional and International organizations;
- (c) Youth organizations and civil society organizations working in the field of renewable energy applications and small and medium enterprises; and representatives of college students in the related areas of specialty;
- (d) Members of ESCWA's Committee on energy, and representatives of the national focal points for the Regional Mechanism on the Development of Energy Uses for Sustainable Development;
- (e) Renowned experts in the fields covered by the Meeting.

#### *4. Date and Venue*

The Expert Group Meeting will be held at the UN House premises/ESCWA, Beirut, Lebanon, from 28 to 29 April 2010.

#### *5. Language of the Meeting*

Papers could be presented in either Arabic or English; simultaneous interpretation from and to each of the two languages is available.

#### *6. Accommodation and Transportation*

ESCWA will bear the expenses of participation in the Meeting for only one official representative from each member country, to be nominated by the relevant authorities in member countries. Participation expenses for the nominated representatives only include the current established Daily Subsistence Allowance in Beirut (USD 221/day) for a period of three days (one day for travel and two days for the Meeting). ESCWA will also be providing airline reservations and an economy class two-way airline ticket, in addition to USD 152 to cover the terminal expenses. ESCWA also welcomes the participation of additional experts, given that their respective countries sponsor their participation. Regional and international observers wishing to participate should do so at their own expenses.

Each participant shall undertake the following preparations related to his participation: hotel reservation, securing an entry visa to Lebanon with associated relevant documentation, in addition to means of transportation within Beirut, Lebanon.

#### *7. Entry Visas*

Detailed information on visas can be accessed at the website of the Lebanese Directorate General of Public Security: <http://www.general-security.gov.lb>.

Participants requiring an entry visa to Lebanon should obtain it from the Lebanese embassy in their countries. If necessary, and for special cases, ESCWA can assist in obtaining an entry visa to Lebanon; therefore, participants wishing so, should send a colored photocopy of their passport containing all necessary information to ESCWA. All participants are required to fill out the attached form and send it to either of the contacts listed below, no later than 19 April 2009.

#### *8. Correspondence*

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

**Dr. Anhar Hegazi**

Director

Sustainable Development and  
Productivity Division

P.O.Box: 11-8575

Riad El Solh Square

ESCWA

Beirut, Lebanon

Telephone (Direct): 961-1-978502

Facsimile: 961-1-981510

E-mail: [hegazi@un.org](mailto:hegazi@un.org)

**Dr. Walid Deghaili**

Chief, Energy Section

Sustainable Development and  
Productivity Division

P.O.Box: 11-8575

Riad El Solh Square

ESCWA

Beirut, Lebanon

Telephone (Direct): 961-1-978527

Facsimile: 961-1-981510

E-mail: [degghaili@un.org](mailto:degghaili@un.org)

**Expert Group Meeting on «Promoting the Participation of Small and Medium Enterprises in the Implementation of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Projects»**



**Beirut, 28-29 April 2010**

**استمارة التسجيل**

**Registration Form**

<b>Country/Organization:</b>	الدولة/المنظمة:
<b>Participant's Name <u>as written in the Passport</u></b>	اسم المشارك كما هو مسجل في جواز السفر:
<b>Place and date of birth:</b>	مكان وتاريخ الولادة:
<b>Job title:</b>	المسمى الوظيفي:
<b>Postal address:</b>	العنوان البريدي:
<b>Tel.:</b>	الهاتف:
<b>Cellular:</b>	الخليوي:
<b>Fax.:</b>	الفاكس:
<b>E-mail:</b>	البريد الإلكتروني:
<b>Website:</b>	عنوان موقع الإنترنت:

**Kindly fill in the form in a readable handwriting & send it to the contact points not later than 19 April 2010**