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Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA)

Committee on Energy
Eighth session
Beirut, 13-14 December 2010

Item 3 of the provisional agenda

PROVISIONAL AGENDA AND ANNOTATIONS

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 - (b) Producing electricity from renewable energy;
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9. Adoption of the report of the Committee on Energy on its eighth session.

ANNOTATIONS

1. Opening of the session

The eighth session of the Committee on Energy will begin at 10 a.m. on Monday, 13 December 2010, at the headquarters of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA), the United Nations House, in Beirut. The representative of Kuwait, Ms. Nour Al-Ojail, in her capacity as chairwoman of the seventh session of the Committee on Energy, will give the welcome speech. Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations and Executive Secretary of ESCWA, Ms. Rima Khalaf, will give the opening speech. Mr. Gebran Bassil, Minister of Energy and Water in Lebanon, under whose auspices the session convenes, will also give a speech.

2. Election of officers

Rule 18 of the Rules of Procedure of the Commission states: "Member countries shall assume the chairmanship of the sessions of the subsidiary bodies of the Commission on a rotating basis, in the Arabic alphabetical order employed by the United Nations. Unless the Commission decides otherwise, those bodies shall elect all their other officers".* Pursuant to that rule, Lebanon shall assume the chairmanship of the eighth session of the Committee on Energy, succeeding Kuwait, which assumed the chairmanship of the seventh session, from 5 February 2009 to 13 December 2010, the date of convening the eighth session. In order to ensure continuity of work and in line with the principle of member country rotation, the Committee shall apply the decision it has made at its seventh session (paragraph 31 of the report of the Committee on Energy on its seventh session, E/ESCWA/SDPD/2009/IG.1/7) which states: "as of its next (eighth) session, the Committee shall apply the procedure previously used by the Committee on Transport at ESCWA, which consists of electing the two vice-chairmen and the rapporteur for each future session as follows:

- (a) The country chairing the previous session shall assume the vice-chairmanship of the present session;
- (b) The country following the country assuming the chairmanship of the present session, in the Arabic alphabetical order of member countries, shall assume the vice-chairmanship;
- (c) The country following the one mentioned in subparagraph (b) above, in the Arabic alphabetical order of member countries, shall assume the functions of rapporteur".

Therefore, the members of the bureau of the eighth session of the Committee on Energy shall be as follows:

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|----------------|--------------|
| Chairman: | Lebanon |
| Vice-chairman: | Kuwait |
| Vice-chairman: | Egypt |
| Rapporteur: | Saudi Arabia |

3. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters

Rule 8 of the Rules of Procedure of the Commission, which apply to subsidiary bodies, states: "At the beginning of each session, once the Chairman has assumed his duties in accordance with rule 12, the Commission shall adopt the agenda for that session on the basis of the provisional agenda". Pursuant to that rule, the Committee will have before it the provisional agenda and annotations for this session in document E/ESCWA/SDPD/2010/IG.1/L.1. It will also have before it the proposed organization of

* ESCWA member countries in the Arabic alphabetical order are as follows: Jordan, the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, the Syrian Arab Republic, the Sudan, Iraq, Oman, Palestine, Qatar, Kuwait, Lebanon, Egypt, Saudi Arabia and Yemen.

work in document E/ESCWA/SDPD/2010/IG.1/L.2. The Committee shall adopt the agenda and the organization of work as submitted or in amended forms.

4. Progress achieved in the field of energy since the seventh session of the Committee on Energy

Under this item, the Committee will have before it document E/ESCWA/SDPD/2010/IG.1/3_which is composed of three parts:

(a) Follow-up on the implementation of recommendations made by the Committee on Energy at its seventh session (E/ESCWA/SDPD/2010/IG.1/3(Part I))

The Committee will review the activities implemented and those planned for in the field of energy pursuant to the recommendations of its seventh session (Beirut, 5-6 February 2009). The secretariat invites member country representatives to take note of what has been implemented and to make suggestions and recommendations in that regard.

(b) Follow-up on the implementation of energy-related activities under ESCWA programme of work (E/ESCWA/SDPD/2010/IG.1/3(Part II))

The Committee will review the progress achieved in implementing energy-related activities under ESCWA programme of work since its seventh session. The secretariat invites member country representatives to take note of what has been implemented and to make suggestions and recommendations in that regard.

(c) Project on Disseminating Renewable Energy Services to Rural Villages in ESCWA Member Countries (E/ESCWA/SDPD/2010/IG.1/3(Part III))

The Committee will review the progress achieved in implementing the project on Disseminating Renewable Energy Services to Rural Villages in ESCWA Member Countries (Ka'awa Village Photovoltaic Electrification Pilot Project, in Yemen).

5. Energy policies and measures for promoting climate change mitigation in ESCWA member countries

Under this item, the Committee will have before it document E/ESCWA/SDPD/2010/IG.1/4_which is composed of five parts:

(a) General perspective on climate change mitigation in the field of energy (E/ESCWA/SDPD/2010/IG.1/4(Part I))

This document contains a review of the adverse impacts of climate change. It addresses the correlation between climate change and emissions, the need to work towards limiting the adverse impacts of climate change on ESCWA member countries and their economic and social programmes and defining the possible means for emission reduction, including: optimizing energy consumption and improving energy efficiency, and reducing the reliance on energy sources from combustion processes by using available renewable energy sources and nuclear energy for the production of electricity and water desalination. If fossil fuel is used, priority should be given to cleaner fuel and to carbon dioxide capture and storage techniques.

(b) Producing electricity from renewable energy (E/ESCWA/SDPD/2010/IG.1/4(Part II))

This document reviews the possibilities of producing electricity from renewable energy, precisely solar and wind energy, with a focus on available means and technologies, international trends in that regard, future cost expectations, and challenges hindering the adoption of those technologies. The

document also tackles regional and international cooperation in that field and the related situation in ESCWA member countries.

(c) Energy in transport (E/ESCWA/SDPD/2010/IG.1/4(Part III))

This document reviews the current situation of the transport sector in ESCWA member countries, the arrangements and options for reducing emissions and the progress achieved in that regard. It also defines the challenges and work priority areas.

(d) Producing energy from waste (E/ESCWA/SDPD/2010/IG.1/4(Part IV))

This document covers a review of the possibilities of including thermal and/or electric power production in the treatment procedures of liquid waste (sanitation water) and solid waste from plant and animal residues resulting from the consuming society, so as to reduce emissions and mitigate climate change. The document presents some leading experiences and projects and reviews obstacles, challenges and policies needed to stimulate investment in that sector.

(e) Regional and international cooperation and available opportunities (E/ESCWA/SDPD/2010/IG.1/4(Part V))

This document discusses available areas of regional and international cooperation to reduce emissions and mitigate climate change, particularly with regard to transfer and development of technology, exchange of technical expertise among countries, capacity-building at the regional and international levels, financing mechanisms, possibilities for ESCWA member countries to benefit from international conventions in that regard, including previous conventions and protocols and those in preparation, especially for the period beyond Kyoto Protocol.

(f) General discussion on programmes and achievements of member countries in the field of energy and climate change mitigation

The discussion aims at exchanging opinions, benefiting from experiences and considering cooperation possibilities in the field of energy with a view to promoting climate change mitigation. The discussion comprises a presentation by the Director of Rational Energy Use at the National Agency for Energy Conservation in Tunisia, on the Tunisian experience and programmes in the field of energy efficiency, which will be followed by comments on the possibility to benefit from the Tunisian experience in ESCWA member countries, presented by an expert in the field of energy for sustainable development. The secretariat calls upon member country representatives participating in the session to prepare presentations and suggestions and indicate their countries' programmes, goals and requirements in that field, in particular capacity-building and technology transfer programmes and possible financing mechanisms, and the possibilities of benefiting from the expertise available in member countries in order to achieve regional cooperation in that field.

6. Proposed programme of work for the biennium 2012-2013 in the field of energy (E/ESCWA/SDPD/2010/IG.1/5)

The Committee will consider the proposed outputs and activities to be undertaken by ESCWA under its programme of work for the biennium 2012-2013 in the field of energy. The programme of work was prepared in line with the revised strategic framework for the biennium 2012-2013 adopted by ESCWA at its twenty-sixth session (Beirut, 17-20 May 2010). The secretariat invites member country representatives to review the proposed programme of work in the field of energy and provide comments and suggestions.

7. Date and venue of the ninth session of the Committee on Energy

The ninth session of the Committee on Energy is scheduled to be held in Beirut in December 2012, unless an invitation is extended by another member country to host it.

8. Other matters

This item shall cover any other matters that the members of the Committee may wish to discuss.

9. Adoption of the report of the Committee on Energy on its eighth session

The Committee will consider the draft report on its eighth session, which includes the recommendations, for discussion and adoption.
