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الجمعية العلمية الملكية
Royal Scientific Society
المركز الوطني للبحوث الطاقة
National Energy Research Center



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Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) and Royal Scientific Society (RSS)/National Energy Research Center (NERC)

Workshop on “Access to Finance for Municipalities – Nexus Thinking and Decentralization of Subnational Governments”

The St. Regis Amman Hotel, Amman, Jordan – 29-30 January 2020

Agenda

Wednesday, 29 January 2020

08:30 – 09:00 **Registration**

Sponsored participants are kindly asked to bring their passport, visa stamp and airline ticket stub to the meeting.

Opening Session

09:00 – 09:15 **Welcoming Remarks**

- *Ms. Radia Sedaoui, Chief of Energy Section (ES), Sustainable Development Policies Division (SDPD), ESCWA*
- *Mr. Muhieddin Tawalbeh, Manager of Energy Efficiency and Solar Thermal Division, National Energy Research Center, Royal Scientific Society*

Review of the Agenda and Expected Outcomes of the Workshop

Ms. Radia Sedaoui, ESCWA

Session I**Panel Discussion: Promoting integrated approaches to water, energy and food nexus in the Arab Region - Framework of the 2030 Agenda and Paris Agreement**

09:15 – 10:45

Moderator: *Ms. Radia Sedaoui, ESCWA***Rapporteur:** *Ms. Maya Mansour, Research Assistant, ES, SDPD, ESCWA***Key Presentation: Water-Energy-Food Interlinkages in the Arab Region***Mr. Ziad Khayat, Economic Affairs Officer, Water Resources Section (WRS), SDPD, ESCWA***Panellists:**

- *Mr. Hammou Laamrani, Senior Expert Water, Energy, Food Security and Climate Change Nexus, Economic Sector, League of Arab States*
- *Ms. Ilda Nahas, Executive Director, Lebanese Microfinance Association (LMFA), Beirut, Lebanon*
- *Mr. Fethi Hanchi, Central Technical Director, National Energy Management Agency (ANME), Tunisia*
- *Ms. Rana El Hajj, Program Manager, Issam Fares Institute (IFI) for Public Policy and International Affairs at the American University of Beirut, Lebanon*
- *Ms. Hedia Sassi Chaabouni, Director, National Water Distribution Utility (SONEDE), Ariana, Tunisia*

Topics of Discussion:

- How the human rights-based approach can be integrated into the Nexus framework?
- How is synergy assured in the national plans for achieving the SDGs, in particular those relevant to energy and water?
- What are the main priorities at the institutional level for advancing the interlinkages between water, energy and agricultural sectors?
- How do you rate the collaboration between academia and the public or private sector?
- How can the Nexus thinking be integrated in the context of decentralization of local governments and municipalities?
- What are the hurdles that are deterring the effective technology transfer? What policies can assist in overcoming these hurdles?
- What are the challenges and opportunities in terms of access to finance and capacity building?

Q and A

10:45 – 11:00

Coffee Break**Session II****Operationalising the WEF Nexus: Technologies and Regional Initiatives**

11:00 – 12:30 **Moderator:** *Ms. Radia Sedaoui, ESCWA*
Rapporteur: *Ms. Maya Mansour, ESCWA*

Key Presentation: Resource Efficiency and Renewable Energy- Solutions and Technologies within the WEF nexus

Ms. Syham Bentouati, Managing Director, NAFAS International LLC, Muscat, Oman

Case Studies:

Renewable Energy for the Sustainable Development of the Agriculture Sector

Mr. Thameur Chaibi, Director of Research, National Research Institute for Rural Engineering, Water, and Forestry (INRGREF), Tunisia

Innovation through Community Net Metering in Lebanon

Mr. Hassan Harajli, UNDP Energy Program Advisor and EU-funded CEDRO Project Manager, UNDP, Lebanon

Key Areas of Discussion:

- Challenges associated with the implementation of renewable energy and resource efficiency technologies
- Integrated approach in terms of technology transfer
- Requirements at the policy level to ensure a successful partnership
- Case studies and lessons learned in Arab countries

Q and A

12:30 – 13:30 **Lunch and Group Photo**

Session III Access to Finance and Project bankability within a Nexus Framework

13:30 – 15:00 **Moderator:** *Ms. Kaouther Kouki, Head of Service and Chief Engineer, Agricultural Investment Promotion Agency (APIA), Ministry of Agriculture, Tunis, Tunisia*
Rapporteur: *Ms. Maya Mansour, ESCWA*

Key Presentation: Access to Finance, Feasibility Studies, and Project Bankability

Mr. Rafik Missaoui, Sustainable Energy Expert, ALCOR

Case Study: Drawing Lessons and Emerging Good Practices from Renewable Energy Projects in the Arab Region

Mr. Khaled Bedoui, CEO, Khaled Bedoui Consultancy Firm

Key Areas of Discussion:

- Technical feasibility studies for development projects under the nexus framework
- Different financing instruments and business models
- Mechanism and incentives for the private sector and SMEs
- Resources mobilisation in a context of decentralized entities and municipalities

Q and A

Session IV Gender Mainstreaming and the Community Engagement

15:00 – 16:20 **Moderator:** *Ms. Shada El-Sharif, Advisor / Consultant - Environment & Sustainability, Jordan*
Rapporteur: *Mr. Jil Amine, Sustainable Development Officer, ES, SDPD, ESCWA*

Key Presentation:

The Gender Perspective and Renewable Energy in Akkar, Lebanon

Ms. Nadine Saba, Board President and Project Director, Akkar Network for Development (AND), Akkar, Lebanon

The Role of Rural Women and Gender Mainstreaming in Promoting Economic Empowerment: The Challenges Facing Rural Women in Such Communities

Ms. Lama Shamyleh, Head of Economic Empowerment of Rural Women, Ministry of Agriculture, Jordan

Key areas of discussion:

- Gender mainstreaming role in increased renewable energy uptake
- Developmental potential that municipal cooperation presents
- Social norms and role of community engagement

Q and A

16:20 – 16:30

Briefing on the Second Day Working Groups Session on Proposal Building, Feasibility Studies and Financing Channels

End of Day 1

Thursday, 30 January 2020

Session V Working Groups on Project Proposals, Feasibility Studies and Financial Instruments within a Nexus Approach

9:00 – 10:30 **Moderator:** *Mr. Hammou Laamrani, Senior Expert Water, Energy, Food Security and Climate Change Nexus Economic Sector, League of Arab States*

Working Groups: Developing project proposals within a WEF nexus framework

- Group 1: Facilitated by *Mr. Rafik Missaoui, Sustainable Energy Expert, ALCOR*
- Group 2: Facilitated by *Mr. Ziad Khayat, ESCWA*
- Group 3: Facilitated by *Ms. Radia Sedaoui, ESCWA*

10:30 – 10:45 **Coffee Break**

Outcomes from the Working Groups and Discussions

10:45 – 11:45 **Moderator:** *Mr. Hammou Laamrani, League of Arab States*
Rapporteur: *Mr. Jil Amine, ESCWA*

Groups Presentations and Results (5 minutes each)

Concluding Remarks and Way Forward

11:45 – 12:00 - ESCWA
- NERC/RSS

12:00 – 1:00 **Lunch**

End of the Workshop