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## The Water-Energy-Food Nexus Approach for Rural Development: the role of small-scale renewable energy technologies and gender empowerment

Thursday, 22 October 2020, 02:00pm-4:30 GST, 150 mins

### Background

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development includes fully dedicated SDGs on water (SDG6), energy (SDG7), food security (SDG2), and climate change (SDG13) and recognizes the importance of these critical factors in advancing sustainable development and poverty eradication. The aim of drawing upon the Water-Energy-Food (WEF) nexus as a conceptual and operational framework is thus to improve natural resources management and advance the achievement of policy and performance objectives through an integrated lens.

The Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) is currently implementing a Sida-funded “Regional Initiative for Promoting Small-Scale Renewable Energy Applications in Rural Areas of the Arab Region” (REGEND) Project. The project aims to identify appropriate small-scale renewable energy (RE) technologies for productive activities and entrepreneurial development and to improve the livelihood, economic benefits, social inclusion, and gender equity of Arab rural communities., through a bottom-up approach, by addressing energy poverty, water scarcity, and vulnerability to climate change and other natural resources challenges in three targeted countries, namely: Jordan, Lebanon and Tunisia. While addressing the WEF nexus, REGEND strives to move away from a model based on “handouts” to a model based on “know-how” combining pro-poor investments, encouraging small businesses and new job opportunities where women and men will have equal opportunities for decent work.

This webinar is organized in framework of the online training webinars organized on 14<sup>th</sup> , 21<sup>st</sup> ,22<sup>nd</sup> an 27<sup>th</sup> October 2020, by the EU – GCC Clean Energy Technology Network, UN Regional Commission of Western Asia (ESCWA), the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida), the Environmental Center for Arab Towns (ECAT), the Middle East Desalination Research Center (MEDRC) and the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands -UAE.

The webinar entitled “The WEF Nexus Approach for Rural Development: the role of small-scale renewable energy technologies and gender empowerment” on 22 October 2020, organised by the EU – GCC Clean Energy Technology Network and the UN Regional Commission of Western Asia (ESCWA) in association with the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida) will address the following aspects:

- Discuss RE potential in the Arab region.
- Introduce small-scale RE technologies suitable for rural areas of the Arab region.
- Assess small-scale RE technologies and their suitability for income-generating nexus based activities in rural development ecosystems.
- Present the economic, social, and environmental benefits of small-scale RE technologies.
- Highlight the importance of capacity building and awareness raising channels on the deployment of small-scale RE technologies.
- Present REGEND’s field projects from a WEF nexus approach.

The Network is funded by



## **Draft Agenda**

### **Coordination and scientific content:**

- Ms. Radia Sedaoui, Chief of the Energy Section (ES), Climate Change and Natural Resource Sustainability Cluster (CCNRSC), ESCWA, Beirut, Lebanon

**Thursday, 22 October 2020, 02:00pm GST, 150 mins including Q&A**

**Introductory session:** (30 mins)

### **Welcome remarks**

Ms. Radia Sedaoui, ESCWA

### **Keynote speakers:**

- Ms. Roula Majdalani, Lead Cluster at Climate Change and Natural Resource Sustainability, ESCWA
- Ms. Katrin Aidnell, Regional Programme Manager environment, climate change, water, renewable energy and food security, Embassy of Sweden
- Mr. Mustapha Taoumi, Clean Energy Key Expert, EU-GCC Clean Energy Technology Network

**Session I: The role of small-scale RE technologies and applications to support rural development (60 mins including Q&A)**

**Moderator:** Ms. Radia Sedaoui, ESCWA

### **Keynote Speakers:**

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

### **Discussant:**

- Mr. Hammou Laamrani, Senior Expert - League of Arab States, Cairo, Egypt

**Q&A** (25 mins)

**Break: 5 min**

**Session II: Field projects and gender empowerment through a nexus approach (60 mins including Q&A and Wrap-Up)**

**Moderator:** Dr. Jauad El Kharraz, Head of Research, (MEDRC), Oman

### **Speakers:**

- Mr. Khaled Bedoui, Water and Renewable Energy Expert, Tunisia
- Ms. Jessica Obeid, Associate at Chatham House's energy, environment and resources department and Renewable energy and power Expert, Lebanon
- Mr. Iyad Muslih, Renewable and Energy Efficiency Expert, Jordan

**Q&A** (25 mins)

**Wrap Up** (5 mins)