National Model United Nations

Week A

March 17 – March 21, 2013

Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia

Documentation
Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia

Committee Staff

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Agenda

1. Promoting Sustainable Energy Production for Socio-Economic Development
2. Towards Sustainable Water Management, Development, and Productivity
3. Countering Socio-Economic Marginalization to Strengthen Post-Arab Spring Democracy

Resolutions adopted by the committee

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The Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia held its annual session to consider the following agenda items: I. Promoting Sustainable Energy Production for Socio-Economic Development, II. Countering Socio-Economic Marginalization to Strengthen post-Arab Spring Democracies, and III. Towards Sustainable Water Management, Development, and Productivity.

The session was attended by representatives of 14 Member States of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia Summary Report.

The session opened with several remarks concerning the adoption of agenda. At its first meeting, the Commission adopted the agenda in the order of I, III, II. In the second session, two Working Groups formed. Delegates discussed the establishment of scientific research centers; trade restrictions; ways to utilize nuclear waste; and paths for regional cooperation, suggesting establishment of an annual “Green Conference” to promote sustainable development in the region. During the third session, the two Working Groups decided to merge their efforts to work towards a single consensus-based working paper.

Negotiations continued in the fourth session. The body decided to divide into small groups to focus on separate aspects of the Working Paper, focusing on the details of a “Green Conference” and a Research Center for Sustainable Development. At the same time, a second working group formed to address the development renewable energy targets by ESCWA Member States and to encourage small-scale renewable energy production. By the end of the evening session, two draft resolutions were introduced on the floor and voted upon by the Commission. Both resolutions were adopted by acclamation, reflecting the high level of consensus and cooperation within the committee. Before concluding the evening session, the Committee moved into discussion of the second item on the agenda. Several working groups formed to consider approaches supporting a program for research, water transportation, and strengthening water consumption technologies.

While delegates moved to the discussion of Topic II, they formed several working groups. The following topics were addressed during formal speeches: drinkable water reservation, clean water security and management. Some other ideas included creation of the education exchange programs and scholarships for students from the ESCWA region to study water management at regional universities. Three working papers were submitted, addressing the creation of Water Efficiency Technical Boards, increasing awareness of water management through education and scholarships, and the creation of a Conference Towards Sustainable Water Management. All three were adopted as draft resolutions, and in the final session, the Committee voted and approved all three draft resolutions. Before adjourning the meeting, the Committee moved into consideration of the third topic and heard several formal speeches, reflecting their commitment to addressing socio-economic marginalization within the ESCWA region.
Recalling the content of the Millennium Development Goal 7 to ensure environmental sustainability (A/55/2 (2000)), the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation and the Kyoto Protocol to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in the context of global development and sustainability,

Reaffirming the Sustainable Energy for All Initiative (SE4All) launched by Secretary General Ban Ki-moon in 2011,

Keeping in mind the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development (1992),

Underlining General Assembly resolution The future we want (A/RES/66/288 (2012)), which underscores the importance of access to sustainable energy services in order to eradicate poverty and to provide basic human needs,

Referring to the definition of sustainable development as it was defined by the 1987 Report of the World Commission on Environment and Development: Our Common Future (A/42/427 – Annex), that states “development that meets the present needs and goals of the population without compromising the ability of future generations to meet theirs”,

Bearing in mind the need to promote sustainable energy production as the fundament for socio-economic development in the ESCWA region due to the over-reliance on fossil fuels and the rising energy demands in the Arab region and their reciprocity,

Noting with deep concern that the usage and dependency on fossil fuels prevents the ability of future generations to meet their energy needs that are essential to economic growth and social development,

Seeking greater regional cooperation in order to promote communication among Member States,

Recognizing the ESCWA region’s capacity for development of various forms of renewable and sustainable energy sources, especially that of wind, solar, geothermal energy production and also considering nuclear energy,

Realizing the variability among ESCWA nations in regards to financial, geographic, and social situation provides opportunities for finding a variety of solutions,

Affirming its belief that sustainable energy can be produced locally providing fairer opportunities for development of remote regions,
Acknowledging the existence of the ESCWA Technology Center established in E/ESCWA/294(XXVI) (2010) and regretting the omission of a department for development of sustainable energy production,

Reaffirming the significance of ensuring energy security for future generations,

Acknowledging the need for cleaner energy usage to reduce environmental impacts stemming from the emission of greenhouse gasses associated with the burning of fossil fuels,

The Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia,

1) Requests the creation of a Department of Research for Sustainable Energy Production (ReSEP) to be organized within the ESCWA Technology Centre (ETC) to work specifically on sustainable energy technology research and development as well as communication, which will:

a) Be housed in the existing complex of the ETC, in Amman, Jordan, by January 2014,

b) Be governed by the ReSEP Executive Board, which will:

i. Consist of a Chief Administrative Officer, a Chief Financial Officer, and a Chief Research Officer, with their official duties as outlined:
   1. The Chief Administrative Officer is in charge of the administrative tasks associated with the running of the department and is responsible for ensuring every Member State is fairly represented;
   2. The Chief Financial Officer is in charge of allocating funds to research and development projects;
   3. The Chief Research Officer evaluates and approves research and development projects and makes recommendations to the Chief Financial Officer;
   ii. Be elected initially by the ETC Board of Governors, and subsequently by the vote of staff that have worked within the department for a period of at least one year;
   iii. Each officer will serve a term of five years and can be elected for an unlimited number of terms;

2) Calls upon all ESCWA Member States to increase and promote their financial and technical investments in research and development on renewable energy production by:

a. Increasing the budget of the already existing ETC, the exact amount being established on the basis of recommendation of regional ETC experts,
b. Collecting the funds from ESCWA Member States according to the existing funding key of the ETC,

c. Allocating the necessary amount of funding for the new Department of ReSEP by the same experts;

3) Requests stronger research and development in the areas of renewable energies, especially in solar, wind, and geothermal energy, considering also nuclear energy, to enable the implementation of sustainable energy projects by:

a. Urging greater research by the scientists working at the ReSEP in the field of storing energy to provide for future energy needs,

b. Improving already existing plans and infrastructure to ensure high efficiency,

c. Increasing research and implementation of improved fossil fuel production methods and usage,

d. Considering research in the area of nuclear energy, including development of waste disposal methods,

e. Encouraging the department to prepare analytical studies and technical publications on issues related to energy consumption;

4) Invites governments to encourage existing research institutions to participate in the department;

5) Supports Member States to create or further develop national departments committed to developing sustainable energy solutions;

6) Endorses the cooperation between foreign and regional companies and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) in order to participate in the promotion and development of sustainable energy production in the ESCWA region by:

a. Inviting all ESCWA Member States to become full members of IRENA,

b. Facilitating regulations for joint ventures in the area of sustainable energy production between foreign and local companies in order to share expertise and technology,

c. Lowering tax rates for companies that either use sustainable energy or produce required technology to generate renewable energy;
7) Suggests to the ESCWA Member States to create a Green Catalogue (GreenCat) of products and technologies used in the production of sustainable energy, such as solar panels or wind turbines and also products in the area of energy consumption:

   a. GreenCat products will be tariff-free among ESCWA Member States in order to further deepen the regional economic integration,

   b. GreenCat will be set up by an expert group on sustainable energy production comprised of ten regional experts from Department of ReSEP, acting in their individual capacity, appointed by the ReSEP Executive Board for a mandate of four years, that is continuously updating the GreenCat;

8) Calls for the national implementation of new technologies for sustainable energy production developed by Department of ReSEP, as well as economic programs in order to achieve socio-economic development;

9) Encourages the establishment of an annual Green Conference, which will:

   a. Start on September 1, 2014, in Amman, Jordan, with subsequent host city to be decided through an application process, which will take place at the Department of ReSEP,

   b. Be funded by the hosting ESCWA Member State,

   c. Consist of a platform of exchange on the issue of sustainable energy production with the target groups being international and national companies, experts of the Department of ReSEP, heads of State, and NGOs and universities in order to combine and discuss the outcomes of research and development with an economic approach,

   d. Present the latest developments and achievements as well as innovations of the newly established Department of ReSEP,

   e. Discuss the creation of pilot programs to assess the effectiveness of potential solutions,

   f. Present the latest updates of the GreenCat;

10) Invites Member States to set specialized, individual, target goals, set by the states on recommendation of experts of the Department of ReSEP of renewable energy usage as well as establishment of efficient fossil fuel production practices in accordance with each country’s capacity;

11) Authorizes the implementation of a monitoring program to determine the progress being made to achieve targets by:
a. Asking each member state to write an annual report analyzing the progress they have made in reaching target goals and implementation of projects,
b. Submitting the report to the Department of ReSEP for evaluation and publishing;

12) *Expresses its conviction* that the creation of ReSEP will work to promote socio-economic development through its implementation of sustainable energy production and cooperative communication across the region.
Recalling Millennium Development Goal Seven, part A, to ensure environmental sustainability through integrating the principles of sustainable development into country policies and programmes and reverse the loss of environmental resources,

Taking into account the Kyoto Protocol and in particular the Clean Development Mechanism,

Realizing the need for small-scale energy needs in homes located in rural areas,

Affirming the importance of energy in socio-economic development in rural communities,

Observing the positive effects of bringing stable electrical power in communities,

The Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia,

1) Urges ESCWA Member States to create their own voluntary renewable energy production goal, which:

   a. Shall be designed as a ten year objective,

   b. Shall include:

      i. Increasing the percentage of renewable energy produced,

         ii. Increasing the efficiency of fossil fuel use;

2) Recommends the communication of these goals through an annual report to ESCWA that will be published;

3) Encourages the development of small-scale renewable energy production in rural and electric power-deprived areas, through measures such as:

   a. Solar panels on homes,

   b. Small wind turbines in rural communities,

   c. Geothermal energy in areas that geologically permit the activity;

4) Invites developed countries, as well as countries within Western Asia to use the Clean Development Mechanism of the Kyoto Protocol to invest in the energy sector within our region, and share technologies and knowledge;
5) *Further invites* all Member States to establish collaboration with the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) to increase access to renewable energies in order to improve access to electricity in rural areas and to eradicate poverty.
Guided by the Millennium Development Goal Seven, Part C on halving the percentage of population that is prevented access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation,

Acknowledging A/RES/64/292 (2010), A/HRC/12/24 (2009) and A/HRC/15/L.14 on water and sanitation being a human right,

Guided by Article 25 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights that states health and well-being including the fundamental need for basic nutrition such as water,

Cognizant of the Arab Regional Strategy for Sustainable Consumption and Production of the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) on the protection of water resources and the development of alternative water resources,

Keeping in mind the report of the United Nations Office of the High Commissioner on Human Rights (OHCHR) again reaffirming the necessary access to clear and safe drinking water,

The Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia,

1) Asks the ESCWA Member States to establish Water Efficiency Technical Boards (WET) that do specific advisory work in foreign policy bargaining;

2) Suggests that all members of the ESCWA integrate a WET at their respective office of foreign relations in order to have the regional sensitive issue of water fully integrated into mutual negotiations;

3) Intends to have every ESCWA Member State finance their WET through their offices of foreign relations;

4) Calls upon the respective Member States to appoint the number of WET advisory experts by a procedure the nations deem appropriate;

5) Recommends to implement the Member States WETs by the end of August 2013;

6) Further recommends a WET Forum of Representatives of Member States meet every half year taking place in the regular meeting of the ESCWA Sustainable Development and Productivity Division (SDPD) starting two months after the WETs have been established, being funded by the regular budget of SDPD in order to:

   a. Provide a platform to mutually inform about and negotiate on the holistic considerations of solutions on water problems,
b. Invite neighboring riparian states who are not members of ESCWA to join the WET Forum,

c. Set the first agenda on the topic of the progress that has been made since the creation of the WETs, as well as the dispossession of the natural springs in Palestine and then have continuously set the agenda by the preceding WET-Forum,

d. Integrate the outcome of the WET Forum in the Member States’ WET policy, thus creating a feedback mechanism between ESCWA and the Member States,

e. Report the outcome of the WET-Forum regularly in form of a lessons-learned report at ESCWA meetings;

7) **Decides** to have the WETs concentrate and advise their respective governments in the realms of:

a. Water issues of rivers and boarders and the respect of national sovereignty,

b. Water sharing agreements among nations that explicitly share same rivers that should be considered international property,

c. Shared cross boarder ground water,

d. Water pollution and over usage of water in more upstream nations,

e. Local rural water scarcity,

f. Respect and implementation of already existing agreements, treaties, reports, and resolutions on the issue of water sharing.
Stressing the importance of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development (A/CONF.151/26 (1992)) as well as The Future we Want (A/RES/66/288),


Keeping in mind the resolution of the Human Rights Council (A/HRC/RES/21/2), ensuring the right of all to safe drinking water and sanitation,

Recalling and noting with satisfaction the achievement of Millennium Development Goal 7c ensuring environmental sustainability, specifically increasing the access of people to clean drinking water (A/55/2 (2000)),

Reaffirming E/ESCWA/SDPD/2011/4, proposing the Committee on Water Resources,

Reinforcing the concept of Integrated Water Resource Management (2002) especially through education to achieve the reduction of water consumption and mismanagement,

Acknowledging the importance of raising awareness on water-related issues in the ESCWA region through effective communication,

Emphasizing the role of governments in addressing water management issues and communicating with the public,

Observing the importance of communication through education to ensure the public is aware of the issues surrounding water management and consumption,

Recognizing the inadequate communication of inefficient practices and more sustainable alternatives,

The Economic and Social Commission of Western Asia,

1) Urges ESCWA Member States to implement Integrated Water Resource Management (IWRM) on a more effective basis by encouraging governments to enforce their current plans;

2) Promotes the raising of awareness of water resource issues through formal education, by;

   a. Integrating water awareness into curriculum for primary and secondary school science classes,
b. Requiring classes focused on water management and recycling practices should be required for university students studying agriculture, architecture, engineering, education, and other disciplines in which water management is relevant,

c. Creating fields of study in universities for students to study the management of water,

d. Organizing university students enrolled in the water programs to use their expertise to hold workshop groups or seminars for all age groups further educating the public on best water management practices,

e. Creating partnerships among ESCWA region universities to form exchange programs for students to gain more diverse experiences in the field of water management,

f. Forming partnerships between universities and companies specializing in water management,

g. ESCWA Committee on Water Resources should offer technical and financial assistance in formulating curriculum as well as training instructors in the field of water management;

3) Encourages ESCWA Member States to determine nationally and offer scholarships to students from the ESCWA Member States studying water management and development at universities within the ESCWA region as well as the creation of internships for students to gain practical experience;

4) Supports the ESCWA Member States in the creation of media campaigns and educational programs in order to raise public awareness of the issues regarding water management and consumption through the development a website by the ESCWA Committee on Water Resources to be called www.educationblue.org that provides a forum and a database for the dissemination of information pertaining to water management practices;

5) Encourages national television and radio to promote media campaigns that raise awareness as well as the production of water related documentaries;

6) Endorses the creation of a publication highlighting companies that utilize water most efficiently to promote the public to direct consumption towards these firms as well as encouraging companies to increase their own efficiency;

7) Encourages Member States to communicate with the ESCWA Committee on Water Resources to gain information and to consider alternatives to desalinization such as efficient consumption and water recycling.
Recalling Millennium Development Goal 7c aiming at halving the proportion of the population without access to safe drinking water and sanitation, especially as the goal has already been achieved early, stressing states’ ability to further improve the population’s access to it,

Further recalling General Assembly resolution 64/154 (2011) that establishes The International Year of Water Cooperation 2013,

Recognizing the effort of pioneering ESCWA Member States in the area of water infrastructure inefficiencies,

Noting with deep concern the effects of leakages in the water pipe systems and contamination of water on national water supply as well as the need for water recycling methods and systems,

Recalling resolution E/ESCWA/205(XVIII) (1995) establishing the Committee on Water Resources,

Alarmed by the absence of attention to the issues of water leakages, contamination and water recycling within the Committee on Water Resources,

Conscious of the disparity between Member States’ capacity for water management and ability to implement more efficient technologies to address water infrastructure,

The Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia,

1) Calls upon the Committee on Water Resources to urge Member States to combat issues of water leakages, contamination and recycling within their existing water infrastructure by implementing the following suggestions;

2) Requests the Committee on Water Resources to act as a platform for Member States to exchange technologies and expertise regarding water infrastructure management by:

a. Establishing the five-day long Conference Towards Sustainable Water Management which will:

   i. Take place annually beginning on March 3ʳᵈ 2014 in order to also reflect upon The International Year of Water Cooperation 2013,
   ii. Be hosted by an ESCWA Member State as selected through an annual application process submitted to the Committee on Water Resources and financed by the hosting Member State,
   iii. Empower the collaboration between experienced Member States already having implemented initiatives on the issues of pipe leakages,
contaminated and recyclable water and those who are seeking to improve their water management practices;

b. Endorsing the cooperation on monitoring, detecting, and rebuilding water infrastructure systems,

c. Promoting the collaboration on solutions for contaminated and recyclable water supplies;

3) Asks all ESCWA Member States to incorporate the regional expertise, technologies, and projects based on the suggestions made at the Conference Towards Sustainable Water Management, therefore:

   a) Setting up a national board of inspectors within each ESCWA Member State to first assess the water infrastructure systems’ management and quality of water by inspecting existing systems, detecting inefficiencies, and suggesting the rebuilding or repairing measures to the ESCWA Member States’ water systems,

   b) Encouraging all Member States to follow already existing successful national initiatives, which aim at reducing the waste of water and at improving its quality, and adapt those initiatives according to their specific challenges in water infrastructure management,

   c) Including these national initiatives in the national boards of inspectors,

   d) Fostering the development of techniques to recycle water;

4) Designates the Committee on Water Resources to support cooperation between experienced Member States and those Member States who seek to improve their water infrastructure management practices by establishing financial, technological, and personnel partnerships.