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

Regional Initiative for the Assessment of Climate Change Impacts on Water Resources and Socio-Economic Vulnerability in the Arab Region

RICCAR Phase II Consultation  
Beirut, 30-31 May 2018

### Information note

#### 1. Background

The Regional Initiative for the Assessment of Climate Change Impacts on Water Resources and Socio-Economic Vulnerability in the Arab Region (RICCAR) was launched in 2010 and is an outcome of a collaborative effort between the United Nations and the League of Arab States and their respective specialized organizations. The first phase of implementation of the initiative culminated with the launching of the *Arab Climate Change Assessment Report* in September 2017, along with a RICCAR publication series comprised of technical notes, technical reports, training manuals and associated technical materials.

RICCAR is implemented under the auspices of the Arab Ministerial Water Council through a collaborative partnership involving 11 partner organizations, namely the Arab Center for the Studies of Arid Zones and Dry Lands (ACSAD), Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit GmbH (GIZ), Swedish Meteorological and Hydrological Institute (SMHI), United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA), League of Arab States; United Nations Environment Programme, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) Cairo Office, United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR), United Nations University Institute for Water, Environment and Health (UNU-INWEH) and the World Meteorological Organization (WMO). ESCWA coordinates the regional initiative.

The development of an integrated assessment methodology that links impact assessment with vulnerability assessment; the projections of regional climate change impacts on key climate and hydrological parameters across the Arab Domain; and the findings of a series of case studies and assessment conducted across a range of sectors and sub-domains have informed policy dialogue on climate change at the Arab regional and national levels. Arab States have already drawn upon RICCAR results in national and sectoral development planning processes, as well as in their national communications to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). Institutional arrangements have also been put into place to ensure the sustainability of the initiative, including the establishment of the Arab Climate Outlook Forum (ArabCOF) and the endorsement by the Arab Ministerial Water Council that its Technical, Scientific and Advisory Committee serve as the Board of Directors of the RICCAR Regional Knowledge Hub. Arab States have further expressed their interest in expanding regional work on climate change by calling for the establishment of an Arab Climate Change Center.

#### 2. Objectives

The aim of this consultation is to conceptualize and formulate the next phase of RICCAR activities, which would draw upon the assessment outcomes, data and policy-relevant analysis conducted during the initial phase of the initiative, as well as associated lessons learned. The meeting will thus discuss proposed pillars of work, expected accomplishments, activities, partnership modalities and operational arrangements as well as a preliminary funding strategy.

### *3. Date and venue*

The consultation will be held from 30 to 31 May 2018 at the United Nations House in Beirut, Lebanon. The meeting will begin at 9:00 a.m. on Wednesday, May 30 and conclude by 5:00 pm on Thursday, 31 May 2018. Participants are kindly asked to bring photographic identification on the first day of the meeting and to arrive at United Nations House by 8:30 am on the first day of the meeting to allow sufficient time to pass through security to collect their identification badge. Access to the United Nations House is provided through the Gibran Khalil Gibran Garden pedestrian entrance.

### *4. Participants and Registration*

RICCAR partners are invited to participate in the meeting, as well as representatives of Arab member States who have been designated to take part in these discussions. Observers may also be invited to contribute. Invited participants are kindly requested to return their completed registration form to ESCWA by 30 April 2018. A colour, scanned passport-like photograph should be submitted with the registration form to facilitate access the United Nations House.

A limited budget is available for the sponsorship of participants. Priority will be given to representatives from Arab States and, if necessary, to RICCAR partners on a request basis. Sponsorship includes roundtrip travel to Beirut, a daily subsistence allowance to cover hotel, meals and incidental expenses for up to three nights, and a terminal allowance to facilitate ground transportation to and from the airport. Roundtrip tickets will be issued in economy class on the least expensive route, in accordance with United Nations Financial Rules and Regulations. Requests for sponsorship must be received by ESCWA no later than Monday, 30 April 2018 to be eligible for consideration. Requests for sponsorship must be indicated on the registration form and include a copy of the national passport. Participants approved for sponsorship will be asked to complete a bank details form to allow for the electronic transfer of their sponsorship entitlements following the meeting.

### *5. Accommodation and transportation*

The Riviera Hotel offers preferential room rates to meeting participants. Room reservations and airport pick-up can be arranged with the hotel management. Additional information, as well as the names of other hotels offering preferential rates in Beirut, will be provided to registered participants.

### *6. Entry visas*

Participants are requested to secure their own visas for travel to Lebanon, as may be necessary. ESCWA can coordinate with the Government of Lebanon to assist in obtaining entry visas for participants who are unable to secure visas in their home countries. Those who need assistance in this matter should send a colour, scanned copy of their national passport to ESCWA no later than Monday, 30 April 2018.

### *7. Correspondence*

Inquiries and completed registration forms should be submitted to:

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