Republic of Lebanon
Ministry of Energy and Water
The Directorate General of Hydraulic and Electric Resources

The Beirut Declaration on the Mediterranean Solar Plan (MSP)

The First National Workshop on "Coordinating the National Efforts towards the Active Involvement of Lebanon in the Upcoming Mediterranean Solar Plan (MSP)

24 August 2009- Gefinor Rotana Hotel- Beirut, Lebanon

We hereby conclude the first national workshop on *"the coordination of national efforts towards the active involvement of Lebanon in the upcoming Mediterranean Solar Plan (MSP)"*. This event is the first milestone in a long journey that our country needs to undertake to assume a leading pioneering role in the MSP.

Our national workshop today is organized by the Lebanese Center for Energy Conservation (LCEC) under the patronage of H.E. the Minister of Energy and Water Mr. Alain Tabourian represented by the Director General of Hydraulic and Electric Resources of the Ministry Dr. Fadi Comair as the **national focal point of the MSP**. The event has gathered more than 70 experts- national stakeholders, government representatives, public officials, non-governmental organizations, universities, research centers, private sector representatives, media representatives, experts, and others concerned players (list of participants- annex 1).

This event is an opportunity to pledge the full commitment and attention of the Ministry of Energy and Water throughout the implementation of the MSP; especially that the MSP is one of the identified projects of the "Union for the Mediterranean (UfM)".

Lebanon will take an active role within the MSP which aims at increasing the use of solar energy and other renewable energy sources for power generation in the Mediterranean region with a target of 20 GW of additional installed capacity by 2020. The MSP also aims at the reduction of 20% of energy consumption using energy efficiency and conservation by the year 2020.

National Steering Committee

To initiate a real and effective momentum towards the involvement of Lebanon in the MSP, and based on the suggestion of the national focal point of the MSP in Lebanon Dr. Comair, we announce the setup of the **National Steering Committee** of the MSP in Lebanon, which will lead and coordinate the national activities in the MSP. The Lebanese Center for Energy Conservation (LCEC) will handle the work of the executive secretariat of the national steering committee. The steering committee is expected to be a soft and flexible body and it must include representatives from all sectors- universities, NGO's, public sector, and private sector.

The National Focal Point Dr. Fadi Comair requests urgently that the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM) assists in the financial support of the national steering committee in order to cover the consultancy, secretariat, and the logistical expenses.

The national steering committee will include the following members:

- Dr. Fadi Comair, Director General of Hydraulic and Electric Resources at MEW, MSP National Focal Point; Notre Dame University (NDU);
- Mr. Mahmoud Baroud, Acting Director General of Exploitation at MEW;
- The Lebanese Center for Energy Conservation (LCEC), executive secretariat of the national steering committee;
- Dr. Raymond Ghajar, advisor to the Minister of Energy and Water, Lebanese American University (LAU);
- Mr. Ali Berro, legal advisor to the LCEC;
- Mr. Wissam Zahabi, Advisor to the Prime Minister of Lebanon;
- Mr. Ziad Hayek, General Secretary of the Higher Council for Privatization;
- Mr. Edgard Chehab, Assistant Resident Representative and Energy and Environment Programme Manager, UNDP;
- Representative from the Ministry of Environment;
- Representative from EDL;
- Representative from the Order of Engineers and Architects- Beirut;

- 3 representatives from universities (Lebanese University, AUB, USJ, NDU, LAU);
- 3 representatives from NGO's (LSES, ALMEE, LGBC, ASHRAE).

Role of the Steering Committee

The role of the steering committee is to align efforts and prepare all the required national documents and submit them to the MSP presidency. The committee will set the criteria for the selection of projects to be submitted to the MSP presidency. It was decided that Lebanon will prepare a national portfolio of projects by the end of the month of September 2009.

Typically, we will work towards the achievement of the following objectives:

- To create the political will to setup the legal, institutional, and organizational framework necessary for the massive deployment of RE and EE in the country;
- To create stable financial and legal frameworks for long-term investments that will provide benefits to the Lebanese community;
- To launch an educational component targeting all social and economical sectors of the country with awareness tools and campaigns aiming to satisfy the needs of the society and meet the objectives of MSP. The role of universities, research centers, municipalities and the media is very important for the success of this component.

Lebanon will come up with the national strategy for implementation. The national strategy will be developed under the guidance of the steering committee and in alignment with the efforts of the Ministry of Energy and Water and in accordance with the Government's vision.

On behalf of the Ministry of Energy and Water, the steering committee will continue this participatory approach which aims at involving all national stakeholders in the development and setup of a clear, scientific, positive, ethical, and constructive roadmap for our country to follow in dealing with the Mediterranean Solar Plan.

Project Implementation and Sustainability

The projects will be presented in the framework of an action plan meeting the short, medium, and long term objectives of the country and will be indentified with respect to the following fields:

- Energy Efficiency (energy audits, green buildings, thermal insulation, standards and labels, etc.);
- Renewable Energy (solar energy, hydro power, wind power, etc.);
- Transmission lines development;
- Capacity building.

Interested parties must submit their project proposals before September 15, 2009. A horizontal component on education will be a major project to be started as soon as possible.

The Beirut meeting goes in line with the efforts of the Ministry of Energy and Water to develop and implement a clear and structured action plan for energy efficiency and renewable energy.

Web Site for the MSP in Lebanon

The national steering committee decided to develop a dedicated web site for the MSP, to be funded by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). In addition, the national steering committee will work on publishing pamphlets, brochures, and other publications and newspaper articles on the MSP. The national steering committee will invest all possible efforts to ensure needed funding to achieve these goals.

Regional MSP Conference- February 2010

A regional conference will be organized in Beirut, Lebanon to gather most Mediterranean Partner Countries (MPC's). The conference will be held in February 2010 with the objectives of coordinating the MSP projects along with the relevant national policies.

Lebanon is looking forward for a successful implementation of the Mediterranean Solar Plan, as well as the development and enhancement of the Euro-Mediterranean relationships.

Monday, September 7, 2009
Beirut, Lebanon

ANNEX 1- List of Participants

The First National Workshop on "Coordinating the National Efforts towards the Active Involvement of Lebanon in the Upcoming Mediterranean Solar Plan (MSP) 24 August 2009- Gefinor Rotana Hotel- Beirut, Lebanon				
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