



RES4Africa Program Launch Enhancing the renewable energy transition in Zambia

November 27th – 28th, 2018 - Intercontinental Hotel, Lusaka

Concept Note

Who we are

Renewable Energy Solutions for Africa - RES4Africa - is a network of key international energy stakeholders - utilities, industries, agencies, technical service providers and academia - engaged in promoting renewable energies in the Sub-Saharan African continent. Its mission is to support the deployment of renewable energy, both large scale and distributed energy, and their integration in the local and regional markets to satisfy local energy needs. RES4Africa encourages the set-up of partnership formulas to provide decision makers with the viewpoint of the private sector and to stimulate investment opportunities along the entire supply chain through networking activities for market operators, industry associations and other key stakeholders

RES4Africa aims to create an enabling environment for renewable energy investments in Sub-Saharan African countries by:

1. Acting as a **connecting platform for dialogue & strategic partnerships** between members and partners to exchange perspectives and foster cooperation;
2. Providing **technical support & market intelligence** through dedicated studies and recommendations based on members' know-how to advance RE markets;
3. Leading **capacity building, training and innovation** efforts based on members' expertise to enable skills and knowledge transfer that support long-term RE market creation;

The three strategic work streams focus on the most relevant themes, from financing and business models, to policy and regulation, socio-economic development and technical feasibility, innovation and sustainability.

Context

Sub-Saharan Africa is one of the richest regions in terms of renewable energy sources, but it's poor in the capability to exploit them and for this reason today just 1% of the energy consumption (oil, gas and coal account for more than 90% of energy consumption) comes from renewable energy sources excluding hydro. Thanks to the continent's dynamic economic and population growth, its wealth in renewable energy resources, and falling technology costs, renewable energy investments are considered a key solution to introduce widespread affordable, reliable and sustainable energy access to the region. Despite positive trends in term of technology and economic feasibility of renewable energy projects, almost 600 million people still live without access to energy in the region today and the number will grow in the next 30 years.

Zambia as many other African countries is rich in terms of renewable energy sources, in particular hydro and solar, but access to electricity is only 25% with very low rate in rural areas (5%). The Zambian energy system is characterized by hydro energy that cover more than 90% of total production. In the last few years, being affected by climate change and strong periods of droughts, Zambia is looking to differentiate its generation

mix and non-programmable renewable energy, such as wind and solar, could play a key role in the next years.

This potential of renewable energy investments was captured by the previous RES4Africa Conferences in Addis Ababa (October 2017) and Nairobi (January 2018), where multi-stakeholder interests and market development efforts were identified first-hand. After the experiences in East-Africa, RES4Africa identified Southern-Africa as an important region of focus where renewable energy can reap significant benefits in terms of market development and improving people's lives and livelihoods.

Proposal

RES4Africa aims to create an enabling environment for renewable energy investments in Sub-Saharan Africa countries. In particular, in Zambia RES4Africa supports the transition to non dispatchable renewable energies, like solar and wind, that is already started as showed by Scaling Solar and GetFit Programmes.

RES4Africa organizes a regional conference, to enable a dialogue on the latest insights for the deployment of RE solutions in Zambia. The event is tailored towards building on the ongoing policy dialogue, and scaling existing networks for companies to connect and form partnerships. The conference will include partners from key African markets, and will gather relevant international and African stakeholders such as IFI's, manufacturers, institutional actors, international organizations, academia, and civil society to enable a comprehensive discussion.

RES4Africa Program Launch 2018 in Zambia is designed as a country conference with regional focus on all the countries of Southern-Africa region. The conference will shed light on key topics for renewable energy deployment such as policy mechanism to enhance sustainable and bankable projects, technological and technical issues on and off-grid, capacity building and socio-economic benefits to local economies. The **B2B sessions**, that will take place in parallel to the conference, will be an opportunity for local and international companies to connect and foster new business opportunities and partnership with our members. Finally, a **light exhibition** will give the possibility to companies to showcase their products or services.