



A Just Energy Transition in South Africa

Socio-economic needs and positive impacts from a future low-carbon economy

23rd September 2020

Concept note

South Africa is the largest electricity market in Africa: heavily dependent on coal (providing 77% of primary energy needs), its demand is affected and influenced by frequent supply shortages, rising tariffs, and lower energy intensity.

The IRP 2019 has fixed important targets in terms of renewables capacity to be added (22.5000 MW solar + wind) and substantial coal-fired capacity to be decommissioned (about 11.000 MW) by 2030.

The main reason of the coal power stations shutdown is related to their lifecycle end and increasing the role of renewable resources carries major socio-economic challenges, as also deals with the need for decarbonization and for the restructuring of the electricity utility.

Understanding the impact of moving to a low-carbon energy market on employment and the key role played by the coal sector are fundamental issues to ensure a JUST ENERGY TRANSITION.

The study ***A Just Energy Transition in South Africa: Socio-economic needs and the positive impacts of a future low-carbon economy***, developed by RES4Africa in collaboration with CSIR and ERM, aims to assess according to the IRP 2019 the number of new jobs coming from renewables and the related skills requirements, as well as to draw a reskilling framework plan highlighting the enabling factors to make it actionable.

The study also analyses the lessons learned from countries where the transition to a low-carbon energy system has already occurred, focusing on the main socio-economic achievements in terms of SDGs and highlighting similarities and advising possible useful actions for the South African case.

Starting from the study, the webinar wants to open a much wider discussion, relying on the point of view of the main local and international actors involved and affected by the transition, and facing some key topics related to the employment issue as:

- Need to start **planning** actions to put in place in the timeframe to 2030.
- **Training offer** localization and workforce relocation, **communities' resilience**, and skills uplift.
- **Required energy market conditions** to stimulate the economy growth and the new jobs creation.

Format: 135 minutes (125' + 10' Q&A)

Moderator: Chris Yelland - Managing Director of EE Intelligence and EE Publishers

Agenda:

| Time | Topic | Speaker |
|----------------------------|--|--|
| 10.30-10.35 | Introduction and overview | Roberto Vigotti , <i>Secretary General – RES4Africa Foundation</i> |
| Opening Session | | |
| 10.35-10.45 | Governmental measures for decarbonisation, territories and communities' resilience | Mactavish Makwarela , <i>Director Climate Change Mitigation Policy, Regulation and Planning Climate – Department of Environmental Affairs (RSA)</i> |
| 10.45-10.55 | Energy transition as mindset shift towards Sustainable Development Goals | Lamberto Dai Pra ¹ , <i>Head of Africa, Asia and Oceania – Enel Green Power</i> |
| 10.55-11.05 | Eskom Just Energy Transition plan | Mandy Rambharos , <i>Head of Just Transition Project Office – Eskom</i> |
| 11.05-11.15 | Employment and socioeconomic footprint of the energy transition: Global and South African insights | Xavier Casals , <i>Senior Expert on Energy Transition at the Policy Unit, Knowledge Policy and Finance Centre – IRENA</i> |
| Report Presentation | | |
| 11.15-11.25 | Re-skilling framework in support of the Just Energy Transition | Stanley Semelane , <i>Senior Researcher at Energy Industry Research Group – CSIR</i> |
| 11.25-11.35 | JET- International lesson learned | Annie Snyman , <i>Partner – ERM</i> |
| Discussion | | |
| 11.35-11.45 | Government training program to improve the renewable energy skills | Mpho Mookapele , <i>CEO – Energy and Water Sector Education and Training Authority (RSA)</i> |
| 11.45 -11.55 | Mining sector business evolution, new job opportunities and social responsibility | Suren Rajaruthnam , <i>Head of Energy – Anglo American</i> |
| 11.55 -12.05 | Just Transitions Pathways Project | Reitumetse Molotsoane , <i>Programme Manager Climate and Energy – NBI</i> |
| 12.05-12.20 | Main challenges connected to the development of a South African renewables market | Wido Schnabel , <i>Chairperson – SAPVIA & Business Development Director SSA – Canadian Solar</i> Ntombifuthi Ntuli , <i>CEO – SAWEA</i> |
| 12.20-12.35 | Private sector contribution to the Just Energy Transition | Amith Singh , <i>Head of Energy Finance – Nedbank</i> Jon Lezamiz Cortazar , <i>Global Head of Public Affairs – Siemens Gamesa</i> |
| 12.35-12.45 | Conclusions and Q&A | <i>Sub-Saharan Team – RES4Africa Foundation</i> |