



RES4Med gathers business and government leaders in Rabat to promote Morocco's renewable energy transition

30 October 2018, Rabat - RES4Med organized a B2G high-level workshop in Rabat on how to accelerate Morocco's ongoing clean energy transition. More than 60 attendees gathered on Tuesday morning representing experienced members of RES4MedAfrica's network and the most relevant local Moroccan stakeholders for a proactive dialogue on what it takes to deliver further on Morocco's ambitious renewable energy targets. The workshop focused on the opportunities and challenges that accompany the clean energy transition, and on how to foster private sector investment in renewables, with a specific focus on MV market liberalization.

Roberto Vigotti, Secretary General of RES4Med&Africa, opened the session reaffirming the association's longstanding and privileged relationship with Moroccan stakeholders. Since its inception in 2012, RES4Med has supported Morocco's clean energy transition by formulating technical recommendations based on best international practices and conducting capacity building trainings prioritizing Moroccan participants. After years of building a solid partner network in Morocco, RES4Med seeks to more strongly involve regional partners in its strategic direction, culminating in the new regional memberships of MASEN and ONEE of RES4Med.

Morocco's clean energy transition is central to the country's development strategy for the next decades, as highlighted during his keynote speech by Mr. Mohamed Ghazaly, Secretary General of the Ministry of Energy of Morocco. Morocco's ambitious clean energy transition strategy aims to achieve energy security, provide reliable and affordable energy that is sustainable, and create a whole new clean energy market attracting new actors. Morocco has worked hard to create the conditions to attract private investors and actors, and will continue to do so, together with RES4Med as an acknowledged partner.

In her keynote speech, Mrs. Barbara Bregato, Italy's ambassador to Rabat, underlined the important opportunities that Morocco's clean energy transition presents to Italy-Moroccan cooperation, and the role that RES4Med plays in promoting this transition. Subsequently, Obaid Amrane, Member of the management board of MASEN, argued how Morocco should aim to go beyond its targets for 2020-2030 and think long-term to envision a real transformation. This will require an integrated focus on areas of innovation such as e-mobility, flexibility and storage, and digitalization, Mr. Amrane mentioned, and there is room for cooperation with RES4Med on such areas. Carlo Zorzoli, Head of Business Development Enel Green Power, gave the last keynote speech by presenting EGP's activities around the world, its interest to invest in Africa, and its commitment to be a sustainable energy leader. Many international actors seek to partner with Morocco on its clean energy transition and much more can be achieved by focusing on setting up the right enablers for private market development and liberalization.

The second part of the morning included a presentation of the policy report “Accelerating the development of renewables on the MV market in Morocco” led by Pöyry. The report identifies various suggested models for accelerating Morocco’s renewable energy pathway, including international benchmarking that demonstrate best practices on the development of RES capacity on the MV market.

The presentation was followed by a panel discussion. Overall, panelists lauded Morocco with having all the right ingredients in place for investment: excellent renewable energy resources, political stability, and a supportive regulatory framework, including tendering processes that accelerates renewables deployment. To ensure the continuation of Morocco’s renewable energy ambition, recommendations were made to introduce even more lean and clear permitting and licensing processes, expand commercial financing for small and medium developers, build a network code and clear access rules, and work on introducing a regulating agency to create an arena of competition.

The workshop ended with a presentation by Mariano Morazzo, Head of climate change and renewable energy policies at Enel, who presented the ongoing “Energy Transition Roadmap in Morocco” study that seeks to recommend long-term development strategies for decarbonization in line with the country’s Paris Agreement commitments.

“We need to make sure we create development pathways that are ambitious and climate-resilient. Speaking about targets is important, but we also need to make sure we create aligned and long-term pathways to get there” Mr Morazzo stated. The study is a joint endeavour by Enel, RES4Med and OCP Policy center, and looks at the long-term development strategies to achieve decarbonization in Morocco.

Roberto Vigotti closed the workshop by announcing workshops in 2019 organized with MASEN and ONEE on e-mobility, digitalization, and flexibility.

For more information please visit www.res4med.org or write to communication@res4med.org

Renewable Energy Solutions for the Mediterranean & Africa (RES4Med&Africa) is an association that promotes the deployment of large scale and decentralized renewable energy in Southern-Mediterranean and Sub-Saharan African markets to meet local energy needs for growth. Since 2012, RES4MED&Africa gathers a member network from across the clean energy value chain and supports the creation of an enabling environment for renewable energy investments and strategic partnerships.



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