



Press Release

African Development Bank, MASEN and RES4Africa to join forces on a Sahel-focused training programme in 2022 within the framework of the Desert to Power Initiative

25 May 2022 – The African Development Bank, MASEN and RES4Africa agreed to join forces on a dedicated Solar Energy Training Programme in 2022 to foster the uptake of solar energy in the said countries within the framework of the Desert to Power initiative. This was also announced in the opening remarks by Dr. Daniel Schroth, Director for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency of the, African Development Bank, during the [RES4Africa Annual Conference and 10th Anniversary](#) on the 24th of May in Rome.

The Training Programme aims to **support the uptake of solar energy initially in five Sahel countries – Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali, Mauritania and Niger** - in line with the objectives of the Desert to Power initiative. The DtP initiative aims to transform the Sahel by harnessing the region's abundant solar potential. The two-part capacity building programme will focus on energy professionals and policy makers from the target countries in the Sahel and proposes an institutional training course at a first stage in June/July, followed by a vocational mini-grid focused training course in September/October. In line with the DtP objectives, the Training Programme will aim to support overcoming capacity building barriers in the proposed countries, delving deeper into policy, regulations, finance and technological aspects for the uptake of renewable energy.

All three organizations underscored the importance of this training programme. *“This training programme and tripartite collaboration comes as a timely opportunity given the cross-cutting importance of capacity building for the Desert to Power initiative. The planned sessions are relevant to all aspects of the solar energy value chain and landscape – from utility scale to decentralized uses. Adequate capacity building supports solar energy deployments in the Sahel region, and it will help accelerate the energy transition”* said **Dr. Schroth (AfDB)**. On behalf of MASEN, **Mr. Zerouali**, Head of Cooperation and International Development, MASEN, highlighted that *“MASEN appreciates the start of this training collaboration and underlines that, in line with the objectives of the CSEA – Coalition for Sustainable Energy Access – to contribute to the achievement of SDG7 by 2030 in Least Developed Countries and ODCs, Sahel countries in particular will capitalize on this dedicated training programme to increase their own capabilities in order to accelerate their energy transition leaving no one behind for the inclusive social and economic development.*

The three partners concur that providing tailored skills training is vital and will create a level playing field among institutional and private sector stakeholders, and also foster intersectoral dialogue and exchange of expertise at institutional level in the five Sahel countries. *“These organizations’ mutual experience shows the real value of capacity building on creating markets, overcoming barriers, developing skills and opportunities in the long term, and we aim to contribute to the growth of the Sahel’s solar energy future”* said Mr. **Roberto Vigotti** Secretary General of RES4Africa.



The African Development Bank, The African Development Bank Group is Africa's premier development finance institution. It comprises three distinct entities: the African Development Bank (AfDB), the African Development Fund (ADF) and the Nigeria Trust Fund (NTF). On the ground in 41 African countries with an external office in Japan, the Bank contributes to the economic development and the social progress of its 54 regional member states. For more information: www.AfDB.org

Desert to Power is the Bank's Desert to Power is a flagship renewable energy and economic development initiative led by the African Development Bank. Its objective is to light up and power the Sahel region by building an electricity generation capacity of 10 gigawatts through photovoltaic solar systems via public, private, grid and off-grid projects by 2030.

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RES4Africa Foundation (Renewable Energy Solutions for Africa) envisions the sustainable transformation of Africa's electricity systems to ensure reliable and affordable electricity access for all, enabling the continent to achieve its full, resilient, inclusive and sustainable development. The Foundation's mission is to create favourable conditions for scaling up investments in clean energy technologies to accelerate the continent's just energy transition and transformation. See more: www.res4africa.org

RES4Africa Foundation

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Masen (www.masen.ma)

Created in 2010, Masen is the group responsible for managing renewable energy in Morocco. Through its projects, Masen contributes to the national objective of securing 52% of the country's energy mix from renewable sources by 2030. By the end of 2020, 1200 MW of wind power were in operation, 1770 MW of hydro, and more than 700 MW of solar. Masen Group places the development of renewable resources at the heart of its strategy, in order to create an endless power of economic, social and environmental progress for Morocco and beyond.

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