Press Release

RES4Africa Successfully Concludes South Africa Annual Conference in Johannesburg

Johannesburg, 11th November 2024 – **RES4Africa Foundation**, in collaboration with **Nedbank Corporate and Investment Banking**, successfully hosted the ***South Africa Annual Conference: Transforming Transmission*** in Johannesburg. This year's conference, themed "Effective Transmission: From Plans to Actions," focused on the urgent need for robust transmission infrastructure as a cornerstone for South Africa's renewable energy transformation.

The conference brought together key stakeholders to **address the challenges and opportunities involved in creating a resilient transmission network capable of integrating renewable energy and supporting economic stability**. As South Africa gears up for its G20 presidency in 2025, the event elevated high-level discussions around transmission infrastructure's pivotal role on the global stage, highlighting how the energy transition and electrification are essential for sustainable development.

One of the key priorities emphasized was South Africa's ambitious target to extend its transmission network by an additional 14,000 kilometres over the next decade. Such an expansion will require targeted investments, strategic policies, and concerted action to meet energy demands and support renewable integration.

The conference was structured into four main sessions—***Connecting G7 to G20 Presidencies, Transforming Grid Management, Regulatory Support for Infrastructure, and Financing Transmission Projects***. Each session provided a platform to explore critical themes, including innovative grid management solutions, regulatory reforms, and financing strategies aimed at attracting investments for large-scale infrastructure projects.

In addition, the event served as the launchpad for the ***Southern Africa Executive School***, an initiative dedicated to fostering regional collaboration, knowledge sharing, and skills development among energy leaders in Southern Africa.

RES4Africa, in partnership with key stakeholders, reaffirmed its commitment to supporting South Africa's transmission goals and leadership in the regional energy transition. Participants engaged in **constructive discussions around the regulatory and legal frameworks, technical aspects of grid management and renewable integration, and financing challenges and opportunities for building a resilient and sustainable energy future**.

"Transmission infrastructure is the backbone of an efficient energy system, and as South Africa advances its energy transition, building a robust transmission network becomes critical. RES4Africa is dedicated to facilitating this transition by fostering partnerships and investing in the knowledge and tools required to achieve sustainable, resilient energy systems. This conference reaffirms our joint commitment with Nedbank and other stakeholders to ensure that Africa's energy journey is supported by effective infrastructure and regional collaboration." Stated **Roberto Vigotti**, Secretary General at **RES4Africa Foundation**.

Amith Singh, Head of Energy Finance at **Nedbank Corporate and Investment Banking** said: "As South Africa embarks on its ambitious journey to expand its transmission network, Nedbank Corporate and Investment Banking is committed to playing a pivotal role in financing and supporting this critical infrastructure. The successful integration of renewable energy into our grid is not just a necessity for sustainable development but also a significant opportunity for economic growth and energy security. This conference has underscored the importance of strategic investments and collaborative efforts in achieving our energy goals. We are proud to partner with RES4Africa and other stakeholders to drive forward the vision of a resilient and sustainable energy future for South Africa and the region.

*Speakers at the event were **Antony Costa** (BUSA), **Giulia Casagrande** (Embassy of Italy in Pretoria), **Roberto Vigotti** (RES4Africa Foundation), **Amith Singh** (Nedbank CIB), **Boitumelo Kiepile** (Enel Green Power South Africa), **Silvia Corigliano** (CESI), **Ronald Marais** (NTCSA), **Jeffrey Quvane** (National Treasury), **Alison Chikova** (SAPP), **Ntwanano Nobela** (CSIR), **Ana Hajduka** (Africa GreenCo), **Enrique Lopez Ponce** (Nordex), **Joseph Maraba** (Ministry of Electricity and Energy), **Lara Bezuidenhoudt** (Fasken), **Izak Christoffel Leimecke** (IFC), **Manuele Battisti** (Enel Green Power South Africa), **Steve Nicholls** (Presidential Climate Commission), **Thiago Almeida** (Nedbank CIB), **Mpho Mokwele** (DBSA), **Sechaba Selemela** (African Infrastructure Investment Managers), **Derrick Kaufmann** (Andersen South Africa), **Theuns Ehlers** (ABSA), and **Marianna Petrosillo** (RES4Africa Foundation).*

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

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