



Fisheries
Transparency
Initiative

8th meeting of the FiTI International Board

11 November 2019, Conference Call

Meeting Minutes

ID: BM-08_2019_MM

Provided by: FiTI International Secretariat

Date: 31.01.2020

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Date	11 November 2019
Time	13.00 - 14.30 (Berlin time)
Venue	Conference Call (Skype for Business)
Hosted by	-
Input(s)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Preparatory Paper for 8th International Board (EN/FR) [ID: FiTI_BM-08_2019_PP] - Constitution of the Association of the Fisheries Transparency Initiative (dated 05 November 2019), only in English

Outcomes of meeting

1. Welcome and Administration

The Chair of the FiTI International Board, Peter EIGEN, opened the meeting by welcoming the Board Members to the 8th meeting of the Board.

Apologies were noted from Nedwa NECH and Eduardo ROLÓN (Civil Society Group). No proxies were assigned.

After all members joined the call, the Chair identified that a quorum was reached¹.

Current total size of Board:	2/3 of total Board:	Actual attendance ² :	At least two Board Members per stakeholder group
14	9,3	10	Yes

The Board also agreed on the Agenda.

The Chair proposed not to address the overview of tasks identified in previous meetings in order to allow for sufficient time regarding the other agenda items. This approach was approved.

2. Country update: Mauritania, Seychelles and Senegal

The Chair invited the International Secretariat to provide an update on Mauritania, Seychelles and Senegal.

Mauritania

Sven BIERMANN and Mansor NDOUR stated that with Mauritania obtaining the first FiTI Candidate country in December 2018, the country is obliged to publish its first FiTI Report within the subsequent year of obtaining such a status. Hence, Mauritania's first report, containing information from 2018, is due by latest 31 December 2019³. However, it is now

¹ "At least two-thirds of the total number of Board Members, with at least two Board Members from each constituency, establish a quorum. "Terms of Reference of the FiTI International Board, para. 3

² Including proxy votes.

³ In accordance with the reporting deadlines and periods of the FiTI Standard (section B.2.2), the "National MSG must publish their first FiTI Report within the subsequent year of becoming a FiTI Candidate country. The first FiTI Report must contain information on transparency requirements 1 – 6, set forth in section B.1, from the complete calendar year when the country becomes a FiTI Candidate country."

evident that the process has not been finalised yet, as Mauritania has not started to contract a Report Compiler, as required by the FiTI Standard. It is therefore expected that the country will submit a request to the FiTI International Board, seeking an extension of this deadline (in accordance with section C.1.2 of the FiTI Standard). It was emphasised that the extension request must be approved by the National Multi-Stakeholder Group and provided by the FiTI Lead Ministry to the FiTI International Board no later than 31 December 2019. The FiTI Standard does not allow for an extension to be granted by the FiTI International Board after the deadline has been missed.

Board Member Mohamed Salem NANY provided an update on the situation, outlining that due to a number of circumstances, most notably the 2019 presidential election, the process has been delayed. However, a National Multi-Stakeholder Group meeting is scheduled for end of November/beginning of December to discuss and approve the extension request, as well as the Terms of Reference for the Report Compiler.

The Chair then asked the International Board whether a decision on the anticipated extension request from Mauritania should be taken via another Board meeting in 2019 (conference call) or via a Board Circular. The Board members reached the following decision by consensus (based on the Board's Conflict of Interest provisions, Mohamed Salem NANY was exempted from participating in this decision-making process):

Decision [BM-08_2019_D-01]:

The Board approved the utilisation of a Board Circular to determine a decision regarding Mauritania's extension request for its first FiTI Report., subject to a timely submission of this request.

Seychelles

Sven stated that Seychelles have made significant progress on its candidate application process and it is now expected that the country will submit its application by the end of this year.

Board Member Philippe MICHAUD emphasised the great interest among stakeholders in this process. In particular, he highlighted that a Cabinet paper on the enlargement of the FiTI National Multi-Stakeholders Group from 7 to 12 was approved, based on the demands of the civil society stakeholder group. The only remaining items for the National Multi-Stakeholder Group to review and approve are the workplan for 2019-20 and the final application document.

The Chair then asked the International Board whether a decision on the anticipated candidate application by Seychelles should be taken via another Board meeting in 2019 (conference call) or via a Board Circular. The Board members reached the following decision

by consensus (based on the Board's Conflict of Interest provisions, Philippe MICHAUD was exempted from participating in this decision-making process):

Decision [BM-08_2019_D-02]:

The Board approved the utilisation of a Board Circular to determine a decision regarding Seychelles candidate application.

Senegal

Mansor stated that due to a number of different awareness raising activities made by the FiTI International Secretariat, the interest of national stakeholders in the FiTI is continuously increasing. However, it is still yet not at a persuasive level.

Board Member Mamadou GOUDIABY provided a comprehensive update on the various activities pursued by his ministry to build on the current momentum and to implement a concrete roadmap that should guide the country to submit its candidate application by end of 2020. First of all, he outlined that over the last 6 months, two new Ministers in the Ministry of Fisheries and Maritime Economy were appointed. Furthermore, his ministry is currently organising a multi-stakeholder workshop in Senegal at the end of November 2019. This will also include invitations to organisations that so far have not been included in the FiTI discussions, such as the National Assembly, the Ministry of Justice, the National Office of Fight Against Fraud and Corruption (OFNAC), and the National Commission against Non-Transparency, Corruption and Concussion (CNLCC).

3. Constitution of FiTI Association

Sven outlined that based on a number of recent decisions by the FiTI International Board to establish a legal entity for the FiTI in the form of a global members' association under the legal system in the Seychelles, the FiTI International Secretariat has drafted now a constitution for such an entity (the draft was provided to the FiTI International Board as part of the preparatory document). He emphasised that this constitution was written in collaboration with the senior legal advisor of the Seychelles Blue Economy Department and is:

- based on the legal requirements for an association in the Seychelles (as instructed by the Seychelles Registrar's Office⁴);

⁴ For example, under Seychellois law, an association must comprise of a so-called Executive Committee, which is responsible for the proper functioning of an association's fiduciary and legal activities.

- tailored to the FiTI specific needs (derived primarily from the existing Terms of Reference for the FiTI International Board); and
- updated according to decisions taken during the last FiTI International Board meeting, in particular regarding individual and organisational membership (and their identical voting power), the reduction the size of the International Board from currently 18 seats to 12 seats; the mandatory coupling between an individual Board Member and an Alternate; and the clear separation between oversight responsibilities (by the International Board) and executive responsibilities (by the International Secretariat).

After extensive discussions among the Members of the International Board, in particular regards to individual and organisational memberships and its implications for utilising alternates and ensuring an effective functioning of the Board, the Chair asked for a decision regarding the proposed constitution and a timeline for implementing the changes to the International Board.

The Board members reached the following two decisions by consensus:

Decision [BM-08_2019_D-03]:

The Board approved the presented draft constitution (as of 04 November 2019), and instructed the FiTI International Secretariat to further pursue the legal registration of the FiTI as an association in the Seychelles.

Decision [BM-08_2019_D-04]:

The Board approved that the relevant changes to the International Board, as derived from this new constitution, are applied to the current International Board no later than 30 June 2020.

4. Update on “Transparency briefs”

Sven recalled that the FiTI is now able to contribute to national and global debates about transparency and multi-stakeholder participation as underlying principles of good oceans governance, through so-called tBriefs. These policy briefings will be published at least six times over the next 18 months in 3 different languages (EN, FR, ES).

Sven highlighted that based on the International Board’s recent decision to establish an Editorial Committee [ID: BM-07_2019_D-04], the two members of the Committee (Ylva MATTSSON and María José CORNAX) have already engaged in the process and reviewed the first draft. It is intended that the first tBrief will be published in January/February 2020 and look quite broadly at the subject of transparency in fisheries, addressing a number of basic

questions, such as what specifically does transparency in fisheries cover, and what are the assumptions being made about the impact of increasing transparency.

Sven also stated that the third seat in the Editorial Committee, to be filled by a business representative, is still vacant, despite numerous inquiries to Board Members.

5. Closing

The Chair thanked the Members of the Board for their participation in the 8th meeting. The Chair also recognised that this was his last meeting as the Chair of the International Board, after more than 4,5 years. He thanked all Members of the Board for their tireless efforts in establishing and promoting the FiTI over the last years. Peter also emphasised that he is very pleased to hand the Chair now over to Valeria Merino.

All Members of the International Board thanked Peter for his personal commitment and leadership and recognised his immense contribution in promoting this initiative among all stakeholder groups worldwide.

8th International Board Meeting ended

APPENDIX I: List of Participants

Chair

Peter EIGEN

Stakeholder Group of Governments

Ylva MATTSSON

Philippe MICHAUD

Mohamed Salem NANY

Mamadou GOUDIABY

Stakeholder Group of Business

Alexander BIRYUKOV

Francisco LEOTTE

Not excused:

Gaoussou GUEYE

Marthin HADIWINATA

Stakeholder Group of Civil Society

María José CORNAX

Alfred SCHUMM

Sebastián LOSADA

Francisco MARI

Excused:

Nedwa NECH

Eduardo ROLÓN

Observers

Marcio CASTRO DE SOUZA

FiTI International Secretariat

Sven BIERMANN

Mansor NDOUR

Guests

Valeria MERINO

APPENDIX II: Initial Agenda

Agenda item	Type ⁵	Time (Berlin)
1. Welcome and Administration	ⓘ / ☑	1.00 – 1.10 p.m.
2. Country update: Mauritania, Seychelles and Senegal	ⓘ / ☑	1.10 – 1.40 p.m.
3. Constitution of FiTI Association	☑	1.40 – 2.15 p.m.
4. Update on “Transparency briefs”	ⓘ	2.15 – 2.25 p.m.
5. Closing	ⓘ	2.25 – 2.30 p.m.

The meeting was chaired by Prof. Dr. Peter Eigen, Chair of the FiTI International Board.

⁵ ⓘ Agenda item is primarily for information; ☑ Agenda item requires decision