



GABINETE DO MINISTRO

Fisheries Transparency Initiative (FiTI)

Dr. Valeria Merino
Chair of the FiTI International Board
Providence, Mahé
Seychelles

OBJECT: *Public commitment by Republic of Cape Verde to the Fisheries Transparency Initiative (FiTI)*

Your Excellency Chair of the FiTI International Board.

The Republic of Cape Verde is an island country of volcanic origin, located 455 km from the African coast. The sustainable management of our fishing is of great importance for our country, economical, social, cultural, recreational and leisure.

From an early age on, Cape Verde recognized that our precious fisheries resources were exploited beyond sustainable levels, by national and foreign fleets, as well as in a non-transparent and non-inclusive way. Therefore, we seek to creating mechanisms to reverse this trend and help to regenerate the exploitation of fisheries resources, through the elaboration of a sustainable fisheries management system, based on fisheries research, fisheries administration and an inspection system.

We are also creating an executive plan for fisheries resources that provides for a statistical system that aims to promote greater transparency and efficiency in the process of optimizing exploitation. Also, we are establishing a permanent monitoring of landings, as well as a basic fisheries law that defines the general principles of the sustainable use of fisheries resources, namely the rules for access to those resources, the planning of their management, as well as the inspection of the fishing activity.

It is a complex challenge for Cape Verde to ensure that fishing and fish trade contribute to the income, decent employment, food and nutrition of our people, while maintaining marine biodiversity for future generations.

To realize this goal, we recognize that the exchange of credible information related to fishing and the public availability of data on the exploitation of fishery resources are *sine qua non* elements to guarantee greater transparency, as well as to achieve a significant participation in decision-making related to fisheries.



Ministério da Economia Marítima

Cape Verde is, and will always be, a defender and promoter of transparency and responsible and participatory fisheries governance.

Therefore, the Government of the Republic of Cape Verde unequivocally declares its unreserved desire to be part of the Fisheries Transparency Initiative (FiTI), and undertakes to do everything it can to promote, defend and enforce the principles and standards of FiTI. We also emphasise that our policy on sustainable exploitation, rational management, participatory governance and transparency in the exploitation of fishery resources is fully in line with the objectives and principles of FiTI.

We are therefore starting the process of becoming a FiTI Candidate country immediately and like to request technical guidance from the FiTI International Secretariat in the completion of the six sign-up steps. As part of this, we would like to host a one-day workshop with all relevant stakeholders in Capo Verde in May this year and request the presence of the FiTI International Secretariat.

Gabinete do Ministro de Economia Marítima, 12 de fevereiro de 2020

O Ministro

/ Dr. Paulo Lima Veiga
