

Press Release

Subject: Cabo Verde's application to join the Fisheries Transparency Initiative (FiTI)

The Government of the Republic of Cabo Verde is applying to become a member of the Fisheries Transparency Initiative (FiTI).

The Government of Cabo Verde, recognising that the exchange of credible fisheries information, the public availability of data on the exploitation of fishery resources are elements sine qua non to ensure greater transparency and to obtain a significant participation in the decision-making of fisheries, has applied as a member of the Fisheries Transparency Initiative (FiTI).

In its request for membership of the Fisheries Transparency Initiative (FiTI), the Government of Cabo Verde unequivocally declares its unreserved interest in being part of this initiative, committing itself to doing everything possible to promote, defend, comply with the principles and standards of FiTI and is aware that the country's policy, in sustainable exploitation, rational management, participatory governance and transparency in the exploitation of fishing resources, is fully aligned with the objectives and principles of FiTI.

In its request, the Government of Cabo Verde declares that fishing has a great economic, social, cultural, recreational and leisure importance for the country. In view of the country's potential and limitations, it has always been a concern to lead a sustainable management and use on the exploitation of this potential that has been exploited by a national and foreign fleet through the creation of an access scheme to fisheries resources.

It also states that Cabo Verde recognises that the exploitation of fisheries resources has always been exploited beyond sustainable, non-transparent and non-inclusive levels. Therefore, mechanisms have been created to reverse this trend and help regenerate the exploitation of fisheries resources, namely in the development of a fisheries management system based on halieutic research, a fisheries administration and a fisheries monitoring system. An executive plan for fishing resources is also being created, which provides for a statistical system aimed at promoting greater transparency and efficiency in the process of optimizing the operation and permanent monitoring of landings; and a basic fisheries law setting the general principles of policy on sustainable use of fisheries resources, namely the rules of access to such resources, the planning of its management and the inspection of fishing activity. Cabo Verde is and will always be an advocate and promoter of transparency and responsible and participatory governance of fisheries.

Fisheries Transparency Initiative (FiTI) is a global and voluntary initiative, with mandatory conditions, based on a governance structure with various stakeholders, which ensures that stakeholders from governments, companies and civil society, are also represented. This multi-stakeholder governance will be applied internationally through an international committee of the parties and at national level through national advisory groups. The aim is to establish fair conditions of competition between the countries involved in the fishing sector. The more participating countries, the more powerful the initiative! And the implementation of FiTI in a country is always done at national level.

The intention to join the FiTI must come from the government of a country that is committed to ensuring a favourable environment, the establishment in the country of a national group of multiple stakeholders and the publication of predefined information within established deadlines.

Governments and the fishing sector are increasingly aware that not only improvements in transparency are expected, but will also be engaged to improve them.

The Fisheries Transparency Initiative (FiTI) also helps solve other problems affecting the fishing sector, notably contributing to food security, nutrition and social stability, supporting the sustainability of marine ecosystems, by encouraging the fight against corruption and illegal, undeclared and unregulated fishing.

In addition, small-scale fishermen are taking advantage from the growing recognition of their contribution to their country's development and food security, as increased transparency is beneficial and necessary to ensure the sustainability of artisanal fishing.

The FiTI Standard recognises that greater transparency should be achieved in the fishing sector for all sectors, including large and small-scale fishing, although the level of accuracy required for one and the other cannot be of the same order. Large-scale fishing information should therefore be more detailed than those relating to small-scale fishing should.

Learn more about FiTI: <http://fisheriestransparency.org/>

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