



UNIDADE-DISCIPLINA-TRABALHO

REPÚBLICA DEMOCRÁTICA DE SÃO TOMÉ E PRÍNCIPE

Ministério da Agricultura, Pescas e Desenvolvimento Rural

GABINETE DO MINISTRO

Fisheries Transparency Initiative (FITI)

OBJECT: Public commitment by Republic of Sao Tome and Principe to Fisheries Transparency Initiative (FITI)

N. Ref.^a N.º 0111/GM/MAPDR/2021

Excellence Chair of the FITI International Board

The Republic of Sao Tome and Principe is an island country of volcanic origin, located in the gulf of guinea. The sustainable management of our fishing is the great importance for our country in term of economical, social, cultural, recreational and leisure.

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

We are also creating an executive plan for fisheries resources that provides for a statistical system that aim to promote great transparency an efficiency in the process of optimizing exploitation. Also, we are establishing a permanent monitoring of landing, 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 the inspection of the fishing activities.

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

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

Sao Tome and Principe is, and will always be, a defender and promoter of transparency and responsible and participatory fisheries governance.

Therefore, the government of the Republic of Sao Tome and Principe unequivocally declares its unreserved desire to be part of the Fisheries Transparency Initiative (FITI), and undertake to do everything it can to promote, defend and enforce the principles and standards of FITI. We are also emphasising that our policy on sustainable exploitation, rational management, participatory governance and transparency in the exploitation of fisheries resources is fully in line with the objectives and principles of FITI.

We are therefore starting the process of become 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 Sao Tome and Principe in January 2022 and request he presence of the FITI International Secretariat.

Gabinete do Ministro da Agricultura, Pescas e Desenvolvimento Rural

O Ministro,

Eng. Francisco Martins dos Ramos

