



Fisheries  
Transparency  
Initiative

**Call for 2022  
membership election to  
the FiTI association**

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**For questions or comments regarding this election procedure please contact Ms Tina Fondamiere at [members@fiti.global](mailto:members@fiti.global).**

### Preamble

Over the past two decades, there has been an enormous growth in collective action for international development. This has been aided by the growing understanding that complex and interlinked global challenges, such as sustainable fisheries, cannot be tackled by unilateral actions alone but rather through collaborative partnerships involving multiple actors.

For this reason, the Fisheries Transparency Initiative (FiTI) has been established as a collaborative effort among different stakeholders from governments, business, and civil society. Their diverse interests, positions, experiences, and resources are fundamental to shape the immediate and long-term agenda for marine fisheries sustainability.

*The FiTI strengthens transparency and participation in marine fisheries management. By making fisheries management more transparent and inclusive, the FiTI promotes informed public debates on fisheries policies and supports the long-term contribution of the sector to national economies and the well-being of citizens and businesses that depend on a healthy marine environment.*

The FiTI is pursuing its charitable objective by:

- (i) maintaining its internationally recognised standard (i.e. FiTI Standard) that defines what information on marine fisheries should be published online by public authorities;
- (ii) engaging with countries to implement this standard to achieve and maintain high levels of transparency on the management of the marine fisheries sector and the activities of fishers and fishing companies;
- (iii) promoting and institutionalising multi-stakeholder collaboration;
- (iv) stimulating public debates on how the fisheries sector is managed;
- (v) enabling relevant stakeholders to support reforms towards better governance of their marine fisheries; and
- (vi) fostering the implementation of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals and other international treaties and covenants related to fisheries worldwide.

For more information about the FiTI, please visit <https://www.fiti.global>.

## 1. Membership in the Fisheries Transparency Initiative

The FiTI is legally institutionalised as a non-profit, non-governmental *association* under Seychellois law and governed by the [constitution of the FiTI association](#).

*Membership* to the FiTI is open to any individual nominated by an entity from the government, business, or social sector (see below), interested in enhancing transparency and multi-stakeholder participation in fisheries, good ocean governance, or wider areas of open government and access to information.

*The sole responsibility of members is to serve in the FiTI International Board.* The FiTI International Board is the *global supervisory* body of the FiTI.

In accordance with the FiTI's constitution, the Board is comprised of *18 individual voting members*, equally distributed among the following *three stakeholder groups*:

- (i) *Government sector*, represented by individuals nominated by public sector institutions, including ministries, federal or national government agencies, and businesses owned or controlled by the government (i.e. State-Owned Enterprises).
- (ii) *Business sector*, represented by individuals nominated by private sector organisations, including for-profit companies and social enterprises along the fisheries value chain, organisations in supporting sectors (e.g. finance, investments, management, technology), as well as industry, professional, and trade associations.
- (iii) *Social Sector*, represented by individuals nominated by organisations that serve society at large, including not-for-profit civil society organisations, global action networks, as well as academic entities.

The FiTI International Board is presided and represented by its *Chair*, which does not count towards the total number of seats.

The FiTI International Board has the following *responsibilities*, as outlined in the constitution of the FiTI association:

- (i) assessing candidate applications of countries;
- (ii) evaluating the performance of countries against the FiTI Standard based on validations;
- (iii) establishing mechanisms to collect and address complaints, resolve disagreements, and act if countries are deemed non-compliant;

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- (iv) overseeing and guiding the work of the FiTI International Secretariat through annual work plans and bylaws;
- (v) appointing the Executive Director of the FiTI International Secretariat;
- (vi) supporting the FiTI International Secretariat in outreach and fundraising activities;
- (vii) agreeing on the arrangements for FiTI global conferences;
- (viii) approving the annual budget, financial statement, and audited reports of the FiTI association;
- (ix) electing new members of the FiTI, which serve as International Board members;
- (x) electing the FiTI Chair of the FiTI International Board;
- (xi) enhancing the FiTI Standard over time;
- (xii) promoting transparency and multi-stakeholder participation in marine fisheries governance; and
- (xiii) adhering to the FiTI Global Code of Conduct.

Each member of the International Board needs to fulfil the following two *key responsibilities*:

- ➔ carry out all the responsibilities of a FiTI International Board member, as outlined above, and
- ➔ represent the concerns and interests of their global stakeholder group in the FiTI International Board.

For more information about the FiTI International Board, please refer [here](#).

### 2. Key parameters for the 2022 election

A total of *12 new membership seats* should be filled through this 2022 election process, distributed as follows:

Stakeholder group	Vacant membership seats
Government sector	4 membership seats
Business sector	2 membership seats for individuals from large-scale/industrial organisations along the marine fisheries value chain
	1 membership seat for individuals from small-scale/artisanal organisations along the marine fisheries value chain
Social sector	5 membership seats

The term for the newly elected members will be *three years*, from 1 January 2023 until 31 December 2025.

Members retire at the end of their term but are eligible for re-nomination and *re-election once*.

The current members of the FiTI association will *elect the new members* of the FiTI association. If voting becomes necessary, it will be administered electronically as a secret ballot or by other suitable means as determined by the Chair.

The names of the nominees, short-listed candidates, and assessment results will *not be published or shared*.

The *FiTI International Secretariat* will aid the process but will not make any decisions regarding nominees or participate in the interview and voting process.

### 3. Eligibility criteria for candidates

Candidates that seek to run for membership in the FiTI association must meet the following *criteria*:

- (1) Membership to the FiTI association is *personal* and not institutional. Therefore, only individuals are eligible to run for a membership seat in the FiTI association. Nevertheless, candidates must be officially *nominated by their organisation* or (in the case of self-employed individuals) *from an expert network<sup>1</sup>* from the government, business, or social sector, as outlined above.<sup>2</sup>
- (2) Candidates must be at least *18 years old*.
- (3) Candidates must demonstrate a *strong interest* in enhancing transparency and multi-stakeholder participation in fisheries, good ocean governance or broader areas of open government and access to information, and practicing high levels of openness, integrity, and accountability.
- (4) The working language of the FiTI International Board is *English*, and all candidates must be proficient in reading, writing, and speaking.
- (5) In addition, candidates must demonstrate *at least two of the following aspects*:
  - i) Sound technical expertise and strong track record in influencing policy processes;
  - ii) Experience in partnering with senior representatives from governments, business or civil society;
  - iii) Proven ability in support of the sustainability of natural resources or transparency processes;
  - iv) Informed international perspective on core issues of transparency in marine fisheries management to leverage global standards and/or partners;
  - v) Ability to support outreach and fundraising activities of the FiTI.

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<sup>1</sup> The nominating organisation or network must **operate in several countries** and **be established for at least three years**.

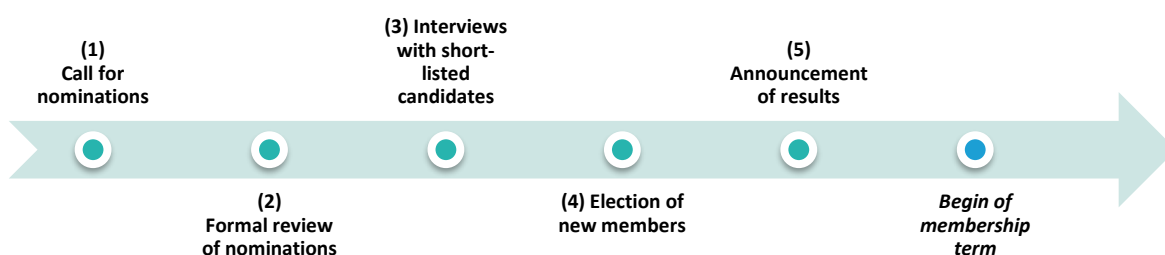
<sup>2</sup> As FiTI members serve in their individual rather than organisational capacity, members that leave the FiTI association before their term ends should have no presumption that their replacement will come from the same entity.

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- (6) Elected Board members are expected to dedicate on average *one to two hours a week to the FiTI* – with intensity increasing around International Board meetings. Members should also be available to travel internationally to represent the FiTI at high-level meetings and participate in at least one in-person International Board meetings per year, as well as additional meetings held online.

## 4. Election process

The 2022 election process for new members of the FiTI association looks as follows:



<u>Process step</u>	<u>Date</u>
(1) Call for nominations	15 June – 31 August 2022
(2) Formal review of nominations	1 September – 30 September 2022
(3) Interviews with short-listed candidates	1 October – 31 October 2022
(4) Election of new members	1 November – 15 November 2022
(5) Announcement of results	16 November – 30 November 2022
<i>Begin of membership term</i>	<i>1 January 2023</i>

The FiTI strives for a balanced and inclusive International Board. Thus, diversity will be taken into account across a range of factors (including gender, geographical location, type of experience/organisation).

As a global initiative, regional diversity is particularly valued by the FiTI. Therefore, the FiTI may opt to state a preference for short-listed candidates based on the above factors in any given selection round.



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### (1) Call for nominations

Eligible candidates must submit the following **four applications documents**:

- (1) *Cover letter* addressed by the candidate to the FiTI Chair, covering the following aspects:
  - ➔ Motivation to join the FiTI as a member;
  - ➔ Summary of experiences that demonstrate the candidate's qualification to support the FiTI in advancing transparency in fisheries management;
  - ➔ Priorities given to advance the objectives of the FiTI.<sup>3</sup>
  
- (2) *Letter of nomination* from the candidate's organisation or a network<sup>4</sup>, addressed to the FiTI Chair, covering the following aspects:
  - ➔ Rationales for supporting the nomination;
  - ➔ Explanation about ways in which the candidate fulfils the set criteria;
  - ➔ A paragraph that states how the nominator believes the nominee can contribute to the mission of FiTI.
  
- (3) *Completed candidate profile form*<sup>5</sup>
  
- (4) *CV* (max. 4 pages)

Documents must be submitted to the FiTI International Secretariat by the **31<sup>st</sup> of August 2022** through Ms Tina Fondamiere to the following email address: [members@fiti.global](mailto:members@fiti.global).

If a nomination has not been submitted with all the documents mentioned above, an email will be sent by the International Secretariat requesting the missing information within 48 hours. *Only nominations that provided all required documentation will move forward in the process.*

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<sup>3</sup> This means that the nominee should state her/his key priorities as a Board member (e.g. getting countries in her/his region to join the FiTI, fundraising, impact of transparency).

<sup>4</sup> Candidates cannot nominate themselves.

<sup>5</sup> A standardized template is available for download here: <https://www.fiti.global/call-for-2022-membership-election-to-the-fiti-association>

### (2) Formal review of nominations

An Election Committee, comprising of the FiTI Chair and up to four members of the current International Board, will conduct a formal review of nominations that will culminate with the FiTI Chair sending a list of vetted short-listed candidates to the Board for approval.

In the case that not enough qualified candidates applied, a new round for nominations will be opened or the 'Call for nominations' will be extended.

### (3) Interviews with short-listed candidates

Approved short-listed candidates will be invited to participate in an online interview with members of the Election Committee.

During this interview, candidates will have the opportunity to speak about their track record as effective, collegial, and proactive leaders; demonstrate strong interpersonal skills (e.g. communication ability, good judgment, thoughtfulness when working in multi-cultural and gender diverse settings, etc.), and their ethical fibre.

### (4) Election of new members

The final list of candidates will be submitted to the International Board for approval.

Any newly elected member of the FiTI association will be asked to provide up to three references, some of which will be contacted by the Election Committee. If the feedback from the referees does not dispute a candidate's suitability, the election process will be considered complete, and the results will be publicly announced.

### (5) Announcement of results

All interviewed candidates will be informed about the outcome of the election before the public announcement.

Before formally taking office, all new Board members will be asked to sign a Conflict-of-Interest Disclosure Form and will be appraised of the content of FiTI's core governance documents. Afterward, the elected candidates will be announced on the FiTI website and through other communication channels.