1\textsuperscript{st} International Advisory Group meeting

24 July 2015, Berlin / Germany

Meeting Report

Prepared by

HUMBOLDT-VIADRINA Governance Platform

Date: 9 September 2015

This initiative is supported by the Islamic Republic of Mauritania.
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<td>Friday, 24 July 2015</td>
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<td>Time</td>
<td>9.00 a.m. – 5.30 p.m.</td>
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<td>Venue</td>
<td>Pariser Platz 6, 10117 Berlin / Germany</td>
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<td>Hosted and conducted by</td>
<td>HUMBOLDT-VIADRINA Governance Platform</td>
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**About the HUMBOLDT-VIADRINA Governance Platform gGmbH**

The HUMBOLDT-VIADRINA Governance Platform is a non-profit limited liability company; its profits are used for charitable purposes only. The organization is based in Berlin/Germany. The HUMBOLDT-VIADRINA aims to advance democratic processes and smart governance strategies in Germany, Europe and the world, and advance cooperation between government, business and civil society while including academia and the media. Through this deliberative exchange of ideas, it helps to create a mutual understanding for sustainable democratic politics and ultimately strengthens the level of transparency, democratic participation and accountability of citizens.

[http://www.governance-platform.org](http://www.governance-platform.org)
Report of the 1st FITI International Advisory Group meeting
24 July 2015 in Berlin / Germany

Meeting hosted and conducted by:
HUMBOLDT-VIADRINA Governance Platform
Pariser Platz 6, 10117 Berlin / Germany
WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Peter Eigen, co-founder of the HUMBOLDT-VIADRINA Governance Platform and Chair of the FiTI International Advisory Group, opened the meeting by welcoming all participants to the 1st FiTI International Advisory Group meeting.

Mr. Eigen especially welcomed H.E. Sid’Ahmed Raïss and H.E. Dr. Sidi Ould Tah. He thanked the Government of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania for their support and commitment for the conceptual development of this important initiative.

Mr. Eigen mentioned that some stakeholders who were invited could unfortunately not come. Among them a representative from the European Commission; H.E. Jean-Paul Adam, the Minister of Finance, Trade and the Blue Economy of the Seychelles – who had to cancel at the last minute but thankfully sent a representative – Mr. Vincent Lucas; and the Commissioner of the Global Ocean Commission Ms. Obiageli ‘Oby’ Ezekwesili.

Mr. Eigen continued by sharing briefly the history behind the idea of the FiTI as a multi-stakeholder initiative and how it was inspired by his experience with the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI). Based on the successes and lessons learned from the EITI, it is envisioned that the FiTI will play a key role in improving governance in fisheries and help maintain marine resources as a sustainable source of livelihood for coastal communities all around the world.

Mr. Eigen also highlighted that the importance of fisheries is reflected in the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, which build upon the Millennium Development Goals.

His Excellency Sid’Ahmed Raïss, Minister for Economic Affairs and Development of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania, welcomed all participants and thanked the HUMBOLDT-VIADRINA Governance Platform and its co-founder Peter Eigen for hosting this first meeting.

During his opening remarks, Minister Raïss took the opportunity to provide some background on the FiTI and the role of Mauritania.

Minister Raïss referred to the importance of the high-level conference on “Transparency and sustainable development in Africa” for the FiTI. The conference took place in Nouakchott / Mauritania in January 2015 under the leadership of His Excellency Mohamed Ould Abdel Aziz, President of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania. Recognizing the role of transparency to enhance governance in fisheries, the conference declaration “Nouakchott Declaration on Transparency and Sustainable Development in Africa” is considered the starting point of the initiative.

Minister Raïss expressed the objective of the Government of Mauritania that the Advisory Group would support the setting up of an international standard which would bind participating governments to disseminate public and reliable data on fisheries activities. Minister Raïss further emphasized the expectation of the Government of Mauritania that those data would support better transparency in sustainable development policies in the fisheries sector and help to address the major challenges coastal countries face: overfishing, illegal fishing, unregulated, and destructive fishing.
Minister Raïss continued to point out that the Mauritanian Authorities strongly support the initiative and firmly believe that, as in the case of extractive industries, a collective action in favor of more transparency will pave the way for a better understanding by all stakeholders of the necessity to adopt responsible behaviors and for the improvement of the wellbeing of Mauritania’s fishermen and population.

*The entire speech by His Excellency Sid’ Ahmed Raïss is shown in Appendix III of this report.*

Afterwards, all participants introduced themselves as well as their work on fisheries – with a particular focus on transparency in fisheries – and stated their expectations for the meeting.

**Sven Biermann**, Managing Director of the HUMBOLDT-VIADRINA Governance Platform and current Interim Director of the Fisheries Transparency Initiative, outlined the agenda, highlighting the three objectives of this meeting:

- **INFORM**: Provide current information on the initiative (e.g. background, initial design of process and content)
- **DISCUSS**: Feedback on process and content (e.g. priorities, interest, synergies with other initiatives)
- **PLAN**: Develop consensus on next steps (e.g. next Advisory Group meetings, involvements of stakeholders)

### INFORM

**Peter Eigen** opened the session ‘Organizational setup of the current FiTI Conceptual Phase’ by giving a brief overview on key characteristics and experiences from the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative, serving as inspiration for the FiTI.

He highlighted that both initiatives (the EITI and the FiTI) are aiming for the provision of credible information that leads to increased accountability. For this, the FiTI should draw from the EITI procedural model and experience where applicable – especially for the deliberative multi-stakeholder governance, bringing together representatives from government, companies and civil society in the so-called ‘magic triangle’. On this, he added that his experience of the EITI has proved him that increased interaction between those three stakeholder groups can address problems of governance effectively.

Peter Eigen also unveiled the ambition of the FiTI as a global initiative to go beyond Africa and to reach out to countries all over the world. The more participating countries, the more power this initiative will get, he emphasized.
Sven Biermann continued by giving a brief status overview of the initiative, outlining the 2 major phases for the FiTI:

- **Conceptual Phase** from April 2015 until 2016 to define the FiTI Standard, promote the initiative, obtain commitments from countries for implementation, and conduct the 1st International FiTI Conference in Nouakchott / Mauritania on 14 December 2015;

- **Implementation Phase** envisioned to start in 2016 on a country basis with the establishment of National Multi-Stakeholder Groups that would be overseen by an International Multi-Stakeholder Board.

Mr. Biermann reemphasized that the FiTI is currently in its conceptual phase, thus seeking support from the Advisory Group in deciding strategic directions for FiTI’s Principles and Standard.

Mr. Biermann further clarified the role of the HUMBOLDT-VIADRINA Governance Platform, being tasked by the Mauritanian Government to develop the conceptual framework for the FiTI. The HUMBOLDT-VIADRINA is also currently acting as the Secretariat for the FiTI.

Sven Biermann opened the session ‘Defining characteristics of the FiTI: Process’ by stating that the FiTI seeks to build on and support existing transparency efforts in fisheries, such as the UN-FAO Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security (2012) or the UNEP Bali Guidelines (Guidelines for the Development of National Legislation on Access to information, Public Participation and access to Justice in environmental matters). The FiTI seeks to provide a coherent framework on

- how transparency can be achieved (→ process), and
- what information should be made public (→ content).

Mr. Biermann stated that the procedure of the FiTI is envisioned to be inspired by the successful procedural model of the EITI, but that the areas targeted by the initiative (i.e. transparency elements) will be adapted to the specificities of the fisheries sector.

Following this, Mr. Biermann outlined the proposed FiTI procedural model, highlighting its key characteristics:

- The FiTI is envisioned as a **global initiative**.

- The FiTI is a **country-centered initiative**; countries need to start the process of implementing the FiTI Standard.

- The **implementation of the FiTI is voluntary**. However, once a country has decided to participate, mandatory requirements must be followed. This includes, inter alia, various sign-up steps that need to be completed before initiating the official participation process:
  - The government is required to issue an unequivocal public statement of its intention to implement the FiTI.
  - The government is required to appoint a senior individual to lead the implementation of the FiTI.
- The government is required to commit to work with civil society and companies and to establish a multi-stakeholder group to oversee the implementation of the FiTI (a so-called ‘enabling environment’). Mr. Biermann stressed the importance of this point, as only an enabling environment where all stakeholders are able to freely engage and operate in this process, an increase in transparency can actually lead to an increase in accountability. Mr. Biermann mentioned that the key characteristic of such an ‘enabling environment’ will be defined over the next couple of months with the support of the Advisory Group.

- The multi-stakeholder group is required to maintain a current work plan, fully costed and aligned with the reporting and validation deadlines established by the FiTI International Board.

- A key principle for the FiTI is its multi-stakeholder governance, ensuring that representatives from government, companies and civil society are equally represented.

- This multi-stakeholder governance is applied at an international level through an International Board as well as in all participating countries through National Multi-Stakeholder Groups.

- The FiTI Standard will provide clear procedural guidelines for gathering, verifying and disclosing relevant information on fisheries. A key deliverable of this process is the timely publication of a so-called FiTI Country Report.

Afterwards, Mr. Biermann presented the core elements of FiTI and highlighted the following key points:
The **Principles** provide the foundation for the FiTI, for example recognizing the importance of good governance in fisheries, capturing the vision and goal of the initiative, recognizing the multi-stakeholder approach, and outlining value propositions for all three stakeholder groups. Mr. Biermann mentioned that based on the outcomes of this meeting, the first draft of the FiTI Principles will be provided prior to the 2nd International Advisory Group meeting.

Ultimately, an **International Board** will be established for the FiTI, where personal representatives – appointed by a constituency from countries’ governments, companies and civil society organizations – will be formally elected (typically for a regular three-year term). As the FiTI is currently in its conceptual phase, Mr. Biermann highlighted the difference between such an International Board and the currently-established International Advisory Group.

The **transparency elements** (‘what information should be made public’) typically comprise contextual information and cross-checked information. Contextual information are provided in a descriptive form (narrative), giving e.g. an overview on major fisheries management efforts. Cross-checked information is mostly quantitative, detailed and aggregated data reported by at least two sides. Mr. Biermann referred to the benefits of such information, as information which is only reported from one side may not be considered **credible** nor be **comprehensive**. The ability to cross-check information is considered one of the factors that contributed to the success of the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative.

Developing the transparency elements should be **consensus-based**, thus the FiTI must define transparency elements that are acceptable for all 3 stakeholder groups.

Transparency elements should also **develop over time**; it is proposed to start with a feasible set of transparency elements which could be further extended once there is a group of compliant countries.

Mr. Biermann highlighted that all three stakeholder groups (government, companies, civil society) must be seen as **equally important when providing information**. The information is typically provided to an administrator (often referred to as a reconciler), who collects and reconciles information and clarifies discrepancies in a joint discussion process with the National Multi-Stakeholder Group. Thus, the FiTI is not only informative on the country’s governance environment; it will also support democratic decision-making in fisheries.

Finally, Mr. Biermann stated that the FiTI is not intending to provide data for tracking vessel movements, inspections (i.e. **Monitoring, Control and Surveillance**). Mr. Biermann concluded by summarizing the **3 major benefits of the procedural model of the FiTI**:

- **Increasing transparency** through the timely publication of relevant information.
- **Enhancing credibility** through active participation of all major stakeholder groups and assurance activities.
- **Providing an enabling environment** for engaging in public debate related to fisheries.
DISCUSS

The general FiTI positioning, the FiTI procedural model, the FiTI governance and the FiTI transparency elements were discussed throughout the remaining sessions of the day.

In the following the key remarks for each of these discussion groups are listed.

**FiTI positioning:**

- The FiTI should focus on **providing credible information** that can be used by the various stakeholders including civil society organizations and media. Thus, the FiTI should not explicitly make normative judgments nor provide benchmark data, even though pertinent data and information compiled through the FiTI could eventually be used in that manner.

- The FiTI should not be framed as an ‘anti-corruption initiative’, but rather as a way of **enhancing responsible fisheries through increased transparency and participation**.

**FiTI procedural model:**

- **Learning from the procedural model of the** Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI) was considered very valuable.

- The importance of requiring an ‘**enabling environment’** was also highlighted as an important complementary benefit to the provision of credible information in form of a country report. An example was given regarding the public provision of scientific data, which is required to assess critical information on the state of a country’s fisheries, such as the condition of fish stocks, surplus calculation and total allowable catch. Some of the information may be featured in a FiTI country report.

**FiTI governance:**

- The FiTI should consider a **governance model inspired by the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative**, adapted to the specifics of the fisheries sector. For example, on the national basis, FiTI should be open to all relevant actors (e.g. associations of small-scale fishers, trade unions).

- However, it was acknowledged that **different participants** are needed for the National Multi-Stakeholder Groups in order to provide industry-specific knowledge and experience. Thus, it was agreed that existing EITI National Multi-Stakeholder Groups cannot steward a country’s FiTI implementation process. Separate, FiTI-dedicated National Multi-Stakeholder Groups – comprising of fishery-related experts from government, companies and civil society – are required. In cases of countries where both National Multi-Stakeholder Groups will eventually exist (for the EITI and for the FiTI), operational synergies should be pursued.
• The composition of the International Board as well as the National Multi-Stakeholder Groups should consider a certain gender balance.

FiTI transparency elements:
As a starting point for the discussion on transparency elements, the following four questioned were proposed by the FiTI Secretariat to the participants:

- Who has the right to fish?
- What is paid for the right to fish?
- How much is extracted?
- What are other social, environmental and economic conditions codified in access arrangements?

- Many participants highlighted the need for transparency and participation to reflect the status of the sustainability of the fisheries of a country in economic, social and environmental terms. Valuable guidance on transparency and participation can be derived in this regard from the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries and related instruments including the Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication (FAO, 2012) and Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security (FAO, 2015), as well as the Guidelines for the Development of National Legislation on Access to Information, Public Participation and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters (UNEP, 2010).

- It was suggested that in respect to tenure arrangements an initial focus on information stemming from fisheries access arrangements is a good starting point. Such an approach would not only cover fishing agreements but also private licenses (e.g. the ‘licences libres’ in Mauritania) and not only foreign vessels but also national ones including small-scale ones. The Voluntary Guidelines on Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security and the Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication would provide valuable guidance in this regard.

- However, it was recommended to further specify the initial direction of the FiTI, for example on ‘Access to marine resources’.

- The importance of collecting data from small-scale / artisanal fisheries was emphasized. Without such data, a comprehensive picture of the countries fisheries sector will typically not be achieved.

- The availability of data, especially from small-scale fisheries (but not exclusively so), was identified as a challenge to the initiative. It was proposed to build, for example, on earlier
efforts made by FAO, World Fish Center and World Bank in this regard and to collaborate
with the Too Big To Ignore international small-scale fisheries research network that is in the
process of setting up an information system on small-scale fisheries (http://toobigtoignore.net).

- Regarding the feasibility of the reporting requirements it was acknowledged that there is a
  need for **consensus on the transparency elements**. Flexibility could, for example, be
  introduced by a series of core elements and additional, optional parameters allowing for
  flexibility at national levels.

- It was recommended that the FiTI should have **progressive improvement** as an underlying
  principle; thus starting with a modest set of key transparency elements while recognizing
  the possibility for more comprehensive elements in the future.

- **Additional transparency elements** have been discussed, which need to be further reviewed:
  - Income and expenditure for fisheries management
  - Penalties and fines
  - Development assistance
  - Investment flows
  - Fish stocks and catch statistics
  - Fishing capacity and calculation of quotas and surplus (incl. participatory processes,
    availability of scientific data etc.)
  - Reporting on a country’s trade data (fishery imports and exports)
  - Other social, environmental and economic conditions codified in access arrangements:
    (migrant) labor, etc.

- The **reporting period** for the FiTI should be at least on a yearly basis. Otherwise the
  published data may not be relevant, e.g. for fish stock assessments.

- **Joint Ventures**, often a means to gain access to fishery resources, were identified as an area
  that requires particular attention.

**Other considerations:**

- It was recommended to develop clear **value propositions** for all three stakeholder groups. A
  principal benefit was seen in the strengthening of multi-stakeholder participatory
  decision-making processes at national levels. Moreover, governments need to see clear
  benefits from becoming a FiTI compliant country. A taskforce was established to support
  the work of the FiTI Secretariat in the development of value propositions, comprising of
  Jacqueline Alder (FAO), Walter Cruz Sandoval (Incopesca), Vincent Lucas (Seychelles
  Fisheries Authority) and André Standing (Advisor to the FiTI Secretariat).
- Very small countries (e.g. island states in the South Pacific) could be grouped together in a **regional reporting effort**, instead of every small island implementing the FiTI themselves.

- Next to the organizations and agencies that were present in this meeting, it was suggested that the following **stakeholders** should be kept informed about the progress of the FiTI:
  - World Fish Center
  - Representatives from Academia including the Too Big To Ignore – Research Network for Small-Scale Fisheries and the University of British Colombia
  - United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)
  - African Union Commission
  - Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)

**PLAN**

Based on discussions during this 1st International Advisory Group meeting, the FiTI Secretariat will provide draft information on the following key areas to be discussed during the 2nd International Advisory Group meeting:

- **FiTI Principles**
- **Key characteristics of an ‘enabling environment’**
- **Further details on FiTI transparency elements**

The information will be sent to the International Advisory Group prior to the 2nd meeting.

Furthermore, the FiTI Secretariat will gather brief information on existing transparency initiatives in fisheries and share it with the International Advisory Group during the 2nd meeting.

**The following major topics have been identified for further discussions:**

- How could the FiTI address the challenge of data availability, especially but not exclusively from small-scale fisheries?
- How could the FiTI process on a country basis adequately consider all relevant stakeholders (i.e. representation in National Multi-Stakeholder Groups)?
- How could a FiTI Country Report look like (i.e. format, means of publication, frequency)?
- How can sustainable funding for the initiative be established?

**The 2nd FiTI International Advisory Group meeting will be held on Wednesday, 21 October 2015 in Rome / Italy (kindly hosted by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations).**
## APPENDIX I: List of Participants

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<th>Name</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>African Development Bank Group (AfDB)</td>
<td>Mr. Jean-Louis Kromer</td>
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<tr>
<td>Arab Bank for Economic Development in Africa (BADEA)</td>
<td>H.E. Sidi Ould Tah</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bread for the World</td>
<td>Mr. Francisco Mari</td>
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<td>Coalition for Fair Fisheries Arrangements</td>
<td>Ms. Béatrice Gorez</td>
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<tr>
<td>Confederación Española de Pesca (Cepesca)</td>
<td>Mr. Javier Garat Pérez</td>
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<tr>
<td>Confédération Africaine des Organisations Professionnelles de Pêche Artisanale (CAOPA)</td>
<td>Mr. Gaoussou Gueye</td>
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<tr>
<td>Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ)</td>
<td>Ms. Mechthild Kronen</td>
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<tr>
<td>Environmental Justice Foundation (EJF)</td>
<td>Mr. Sebastian Buschmann</td>
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<tr>
<td>Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN (FAO), Fisheries and Aquaculture Department</td>
<td>Ms. Jacqueline Alder</td>
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<td>Greenpeace</td>
<td>Mr. Sebastián Losada</td>
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<td>Independent Expert (former FAO)</td>
<td>Mr. Rolf Willmann</td>
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<tr>
<td>Instituto Costarricense de Pesca y Acuicultura (Incopesca), Representative of the government of Costa Rica</td>
<td>Mr. Walter Cruz Sandoval</td>
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<tr>
<td>International Collective in Support of Fishworkers (ICSF)</td>
<td>Mr. Brian O’Riordan</td>
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<tr>
<td>International Finance Corporation, the World Bank Group</td>
<td>Ms. Vera Songwe</td>
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<tr>
<td>Long Distance Advisory Council (LDAC)</td>
<td>Mr. Alexandre Rodríguez</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ministry for Economic Affairs and Development, Islamic Republic of Mauritania</td>
<td>H.E. Sid’Ahmed Raiss</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ministry for Economic Affairs and Development, Islamic Republic of Mauritania</td>
<td>Mr. Yahya Abd Dayem</td>
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1 Participants may not necessarily reflect the official opinion of their organization and may serve in their personal capacity. Furthermore, not all participants of this meeting are already members of the International Advisory Group.
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<tr>
<th>Organization</th>
<th>Representative</th>
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<tr>
<td>Ministry for Economic Affairs and Development, Islamic Republic of Mauritania</td>
<td>Mr. Mohamed Salem Nany</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries, Republic of Indonesia</td>
<td>Mr. Mas Achmad Santosa</td>
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<td>Oceana</td>
<td>Ms. María José Cornax</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pelagic Freezer-trawler Association (PFA)</td>
<td>Mr. Gerard J. van Balsfoort</td>
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<td>Seychelles Fisheries Authority</td>
<td>Mr. Vincent Lucas</td>
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<td>Sustainable Fisheries Partnership (SFP)</td>
<td>Ms. Christiane Schmidt</td>
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<td>The World Bank</td>
<td>Mr. Xavier Vincent</td>
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<td>World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF)</td>
<td>Ms. Julia Lange</td>
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<td>HUMBOLDT-VIADRINA Governance Platform</td>
<td>Mr. Peter Eigen</td>
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<td>HUMBOLDT-VIADRINA Governance Platform</td>
<td>Mr. Sven Biermann</td>
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<td>HUMBOLDT-VIADRINA Governance Platform</td>
<td>Ms. Andréa Durighello</td>
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<td>HUMBOLDT-VIADRINA Governance Platform</td>
<td>Mr. Sebastian Wegner</td>
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<tr>
<td>Advisor to HUMBOLDT-VIADRINA Governance Platform</td>
<td>Mr. Edward Harris</td>
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<tr>
<td>Advisor to HUMBOLDT-VIADRINA Governance Platform</td>
<td>Mr. André Standing</td>
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APPENDIX II: Agenda of the meeting

Thursday – 23 July 2015

18:30 – 21:00 Informal Dinner
Welcome by Gesine Schwan, Co-founder and President of the HUMBOLDT-VIADRINA Governance Platform

Venue: Alvis Restaurant (in Albrechtshof Hotel – meeting point: bar)
Albrechtstraße 8
10117 Berlin / Germany
http://www.alvis-restaurant.de

Friday – 24 July 2015

Venue: HUMBOLDT-VIADRINA Governance Platform
c/o Allianz Forum
Pariser Platz 6
10117 Berlin / Germany

08:30 – 09:00 Arrival of participants

09:00 – 09:30 Opening remarks
H.E. Sid’ Ahmed Raïss, Minister for Economic Affairs and Development, Islamic Republic of Mauritania
Peter Eigen, Co-founder of the HUMBOLDT-VIADRINA Governance Platform, Chair of the FiTI International Advisory Group

09:30 – 10:15 Brief introduction of participants and their organizations

10:15 – 10:30 Organizational setup of the current FiTI Conceptual Phase
Sven Biermann, Interim Program Director of the FiTI

- Objectives of Conceptual Phase
- Major activities and events
- Role of the HUMBOLDT-VIADRINA Governance Platform
10:30 – 11:30  **Defining characteristics of the FiTI: Process**

*Peter Eigen*, Chair of the FiTI International Advisory Group

*Sven Biermann*, Interim Program Director of the FiTI

- From transparency to accountability: the case of the EITI
- Core elements of the FiTI
- Procedural model of the FiTI
- Discussion with participants

11:30 – 11:45  Coffee break

11:45 – 13:00  **Defining characteristics of the FiTI: Content**

*Sven Biermann*, Interim Program Director of the FiTI

- Transparency in the context of the FiTI
- Overview of proposed transparency categories
- Discussion with participants

13:00 – 14:00  Lunch

14:00 – 15:45  **Kick-off on detailed transparency elements for the FiTI**

*Group discussion*

15:45 – 16:00  Coffee break

16:00 – 17:00  **Value propositions of the FiTI for governments, companies & civil society**

*Break-out session according to stakeholder group*

17:00 – 17:30  **Wrap-up, Next Steps and Farewell**
APPENDIX III: Welcome address by H.E. Sid’Ahmed Raïss

Statement made by H.E. Sid’Ahmed Raïss,
Minister for Economic Affairs and Development,
Islamic Republic of Mauritania
First Meeting of the International Advisory Group of the
Fisheries Transparency Initiative (FiTI)
Berlin, 24 July 2015

Mr. Chairman,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a great pleasure and an honor for me to attend the first meeting, here in Berlin, of the International Advisory Group of the Fisheries Transparency Initiative.

On behalf of the Mauritanian authorities, I would like to sincerely thank the HUMBOLDT-VIADRINA Governance Platform for its commitment and support to this initiative. I thank in particular Professor Dr. Peter EIGEN, founder of Transparency International, founding Chairman of the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI) and initiator of this initiative for transparency in fisheries.

His Excellency Mohammed Ould ABDEL AZIZ, President of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania, took the initiative, in his capacity of acting President of the African Union, to host in Nouakchott on January 19-20, 2015 a High Level International Conference on “Transparency and Sustainable Development in Africa”, aiming at fostering a new process across the continent in favor of good governance, especially in the natural resources sector.

His Excellency President ABDEL AZIZ proposed to participants at the Conference to put a special emphasis on the promotion of transparency in the various economic sectors and to launch a specific initiative in the fisheries sector, based on the model of EITI, as proposed by Professor Dr. EIGEN.

Participants supported this idea and asked for this “FiTI” Initiative in their final declaration. They asked the HUMBOLDT-VIADRINA Governance Platform to work on a conceptual framework for the Initiative.

As a result, this first meeting of the International Advisory Group of the FITI Initiative is a key step in the process of establishing a global governance structure, gathering all stakeholders from the fisheries sector.

By the end of this year, your work will hopefully provide the necessary input to the next conference on Fisheries Transparency to be held in Nouakchott on December 14th, 2015 by
invitation of His Excellency Mohammed Ould ABDEL AZIZ, President of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania.

I thank very much all participants to this International Advisory Group for their commitment to this work. On behalf of the Mauritanian Authorities, I congratulate them for the quality and professionalism of all members coming from various horizons: international organizations, public service, business community, and civil society. This diversity is necessary to ensure a comprehensive dialog and a conceptual framework supported by all.

The main task of the Advisory Group is clear: setting up an international standard for the dissemination of public and reliable data on fisheries activities by participating governments. This standard will support better transparency in sustainable development policies in the fisheries sector and help address the major challenges our countries face: overfishing, illegal fishing, unregulated, and destructive fishing.

The Mauritanian Authorities strongly support the initiators of the Initiative and strongly believe that, as in the case of extractive industries, a collective action in favor of more transparency will pave the way for a better understanding by all stakeholders of the necessity to adopt responsible behaviors.

Stakeholders will make public their activities, revenues they make from fishing, the amount paid to costal states and the legal framework of their fishing sector. That way, the FiTI Initiative will contribute to better identify bad behaviors, help our countries to improve tax collection and to conduct a dialog involving all the actors. The Initiative will also materialize governments’ support to sustainable policies and to the fight against inappropriate behaviors and corruption.

The Initiative is crucial to improve the wellbeing of our fishermen and of our populations.

To succeed, we need your expertise, your advice and your skills. We need to establish an international standard for data dissemination that is robust, operational and supported by all stakeholders.

I trust you will perfectly meet this goal.

I thank you once again for your support and I wish you great success in your work.

Thank you very much.

H.E. Sid’Ahmed Raïss

Minister for Economic Affairs and Development

Islamic Republic of Mauritania