2nd International Advisory Group meeting

21 October 2015, Rome / Italy

Meeting Report

Prepared by

HUMBOLDT-VIADRINA Governance Platform

Date: 24 December 2015

This initiative is supported by the Islamic Republic of Mauritania.
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<th><strong>Title</strong></th>
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<td><strong>Date</strong></td>
<td>Wednesday, 21 October 2015</td>
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<td><strong>Time</strong></td>
<td>9.00 a.m. – 5 p.m.</td>
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<td><strong>Venue</strong></td>
<td>Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN (Headquarter)</td>
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<td>Viale delle Terme di Caracalla</td>
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<td>00153 Rome, Italy</td>
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<td><strong>Hosted by</strong></td>
<td>Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN (FAO)</td>
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<td><strong>Conducted by</strong></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 not-profit limited liability company; its profits are used for charitable purposes only. The organization in 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
Report of the 2nd FITI International Advisory Group meeting
21 October 2015 in Rome / Italy

Meeting conducted by:
HUMBOLDT-VIADRINA Governance Platform
Pariser Platz 6, 10117 Berlin / Germany
**WELCOME REMARKS AND ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

**Peter EIGEN**, Chair of the International Advisory Group of the FiTI, opened the meeting by welcoming all participants. More than 25 participants from governments (incl. representatives from Costa Rica, Indonesia, Mauritania, and Seychelles), international organizations, business and civil society from all over the world accepted the invitation to participate in this meeting.

Mr. EIGEN also stated that a few participants from the first Advisory Group meeting sent their apology for not being able to attend this second meeting due to a conflicting schedule or logistical problems. These included Jean-Louis KROMER (African Development Bank) from whom the secretariat received comprehensive input prior to the meeting based on the Background Report, Gaoussou GUEYE (Confédération Africaine des Organisations Professionnelles de Pêche Artisanale - CAOPA), Gerard J. VAN BALSFOORT (Pelagic Freezer-trawler Association), Béatrice GOREZ (Coalition for Fair Fisheries Arrangements), Francisco MARÍ (Bread for the World) and Alexandre RODRÍGUEZ (LDAC).

Peter EIGEN reflected on a key concept of the FiTI, the support of existing initiatives. Mr. EIGEN highlighted the recent adoption of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) and in particular the SDG Goal 14: ‘Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development’. The FiTI aims at providing reliable, publicly-accessible and generally-accepted information on fisheries in form of regular country reports as a product of a consultative process. Through this approach, the FiTI particularly supports the SDG targets 14.4, 14.7 and 14.b on the protection of fish stocks and equal access to fisheries. Responsible management of natural resources is key for sustainable development. Transparency has been proven as central element supporting good governance leading to more accountability, which is desperately needed in order to ensure equal access and fair distribution of natural resource wealth. This is true for extractives like oil, gas and minerals as well as for marine resources including fisheries.

The proposed agenda for the meeting was adopted by all participants.

Mr. EIGEN thanked the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations for hosting the meeting.

**Audun LEM**, Deputy Director of the Policy and Economics Division in the Fisheries and Aquaculture Department of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), welcomed all participants to the meeting.

Mr. LEM especially welcomed H.E. Sid’Ahmed RAÏSS and the Mauritanian delegation and expressed his delight to see the Mauritanian Government in the lead to establish the Fisheries Transparency Initiative. He also conveyed his great pleasure to see that other countries are also
interested in implementing the initiative and sent representatives to the meeting, namely Costa Rica, Indonesia and Seychelles. He also welcomed the presence of participants representing private sector interests as well representatives from international civil society organizations.

Mr. LEM welcomed the mission of the FiTI to enhance responsible and sustainable fisheries and emphasized that this mission is in line with the objectives of the FAO. He declared that the two pillars of the FiTI, transparency and multi-stakeholder participation, are central to the *Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries*, to the *Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests* as well as to the *Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication* - and that the FiTI therefore supports their implementation.

**H.E. Sid’Ahmed RAÏSS**, Minister for Economic Affairs and Development of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania, welcomed all participants and thanked the FAO for hosting the meeting in their facilities in Rome.

H.E. RAÏSS welcomed the progress of the FiTI since the 1st International Advisory Group meeting in Berlin on July 24. The minister recalled the visit of a delegation of the FiTI Secretariat to Nouakchott/Mauritania at the beginning of October 2015, during which the Secretariat met with various officials from his Ministry, the Ministry of Fisheries, donors as well as small-scale and civil society organizations.

H.E. RAÏSS expressed his delight to see the continuous and growing interest of other countries – especially Costa Rica, Indonesia, Senegal and the Seychelles -- to promote the FiTI at a national and global level. He also emphasized that the Mauritanian Government continues to reach out and engage with key stakeholders to increase interest and support for the FiTI – for example H.E. Isabella Lövin, Minister for International Development Cooperation of Sweden and others during the Annual Meetings of the World Bank in Peru in the beginning of October 2015.

In his speech, H.E. Sid’Ahmed RAÏSS also clarified two fundamental questions that the FiTI Secretariat raised during the country visit in October:

- **Regarding the relationship of the FiTI with the EITI in Mauritania:** The Mauritanian authorities believe the two processes should remain separate. EITI focuses on oil, gas and mining industries. The FiTI will cover different transparency aspects and requires different stakeholders, especially from the business sector but also from civil society and government. Further, different data collection and verification approaches are required. His Ministry and the Fisheries Ministry will therefore issue a joint statement that the process of implementing the Fisheries Transparency Initiative in Mauritania will be separate from the existing process of the EITI in Mauritania. This statement will thus alter the current Fisheries Policy with regards to this point.
• Regarding the collaboration between the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Development and the Ministry of Fisheries and Maritime Economy in the FiTI process: H.E. Sid’Ahmed RAÏSS stated that his Ministry has been designated as the primary body in charge of the conference, considering its role as the entity in charge of implanting transparency and good governance in all development strategies. Nonetheless, the Fisheries Ministry is fully involved in the process and will participate in the conference.

H.E. Sid’Ahmed RAÏSS emphasized the importance of the upcoming 1st International Conference of the FiTI in Nouakchott and announced that the event will be organized with the support of the World Bank Group, the African Development Bank and the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development. He underlined that all stakeholders to the FiTI, from governments and governmental institutions, donors, businesses, civil society and Academia would be invited to the conference. H.E. Sid’Ahmed Raiss expressed the hope to count on the full mobilization of the participants of the International Advisory Group to ensure the success of 1st International FiTi Conference.

*The speech by H.E. Sid’ Ahmed RAÏSS is available in Appendix III of this report.*

**H.E. Mariem MINT AOUFA**, Ambassador of Mauritania to Italy welcomed the progress of the FiTI and reiterated the commitment of Mauritania to support the FiTI. She emphasized how she, from Italy, has been supporting and promoting the FiTI by organizing a meeting for Minister RAÏSS with the FAO Director General to present the FiTI and to invite him to the FiTI Conference.

**Almamy Samboly BÂ**, National Coordinator of the West African Regional Fisheries Program (WARFP/PRAO), spoke on behalf of the Ministry of Fisheries of Mauritania.

Mr. BÂ stated that the goals of the WARFP are to reinforce good governance and enhance management in fisheries. He highlighted that transparency and participation are two important pillars to reach these goals and that the WARFP is therefore very much in line with the objectives of the FiTI in this regard.

He emphasized that the WARFP is complementary to the FiTI and that the program can support the implementation of the FiTI, notably through the Observatoire Economique du Secteur des Pêches.
INTRODUCTION OF PARTICIPANTS AND INITIAL INPUTS

Sven BIERMANN, Interim Program-Director of the Fisheries Transparency Initiative, outlined the agenda, highlighting that in addition to providing an update on the current status of the initiative, the major objective of this meeting is to focus on clarifying and detailing the transparency elements for the FiTI.

Afterwards, Peter EIGEN asked 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.

Mr. BIERMANN reemphasized the global character of the initiative. As he stated, even though the Government of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania is now kindly providing the funding for the conceptual phase, more countries are actively supporting the FiTI.

Mr. EIGEN then asked the government representatives from Indonesia (delegation headed by Mr. Mas Achmad SANTOSA), Costa Rica (Mr. Walter CRUZ SANDOVAL), and the Seychelles (Mr. Philippe MICHAUD) to state their current activities regarding the FiTI in their countries.

Mas Achmad SANTOSA, Head of the Indonesian Task Force on the Prevention and Eradication of IUU Fishing, Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries of the Republic of Indonesia, presented an overview of the transparency policies and initiatives, which are already implemented in the fisheries sector in Indonesia. As he emphasized, in the last years, policies have put an emphasis on transparency and the government already makes publicly-available information, such as a list of license holders (owner, name of vessel, vessel’s tonnage, duration, gear type, vessel’s country origin, base port). However, he emphasized that there are still challenges which represent obstacles to transparency and that these challenges must be solved by improving governance in the fisheries sector. He confirmed the strong commitment of Indonesia to be among the first countries to implement this initiative.

_The presentation of Mas Achmad Santosa is available on the FiTI website._

Walter CRUZ SANDOVAL, Vice President of the Directors of the Instituto Costarricense de Pesca y Acuicultura (Incopesca) - Representative of the government of Costa Rica, expressed the strong support of Costa Rica for the FiTI. He stated that the government of Costa Rica is very interested and willing to become a FiTI Candidate country. He mentioned that the government has already started to reach out to fishers and is willing to make payments public. He emphasized the need for a global standard for implementing transparency in fisheries. Mr. CRUZ SANDOVAL indicated that one of the major issues for the FiTI to address is confidentiality clauses, which exist in a number of agreements and contracts.
Philippe MICHAUD, Chairman of the Seychelles Fishing Authority, stated that the FiTI would help implement initiatives that have already been started in the Seychelles. He referred to the agreement that the Seychelles has with the World Bank Group to disclose all fisheries agreements.

Mr. EIGEN also addressed the representative of the European Commission, Mr. Kristofer DU RIEZ. Mr. DU RIEZ, Advisor to the Director of International Affairs and Markets in the Directorate General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries (DG MARE) of the European Commission (EC), stated that the EC is looking positively at this initiative as promoting transparency in fisheries is in the center of the fisheries policy of the EC.

UPDATE: STATUS OF THE INITIATIVE

Sven BIERMANN outlined the goal of the FiTI and the theory of change on which the initiative is built: An increase in transparency will stimulate demand for accountability, resulting in improved performance in responsible fisheries.

Mr. BIERMANN outlined that special emphasis have been given to increase the communication measures of the initiative: a website has been established (incl. detailed information about the initiative and the Advisory Group meetings as well as regular updated blog articles: www.fisheriestransparency.org). All updates and news related to fisheries governance are also featured on Twitter (@FisheriesTi).

Mr. BIERMANN also highlighted that the initiative has been presented at the LDAC Conference on the External Dimensions of the Common Fisheries Policy of the EU in Las Palmas de Gran Canaries in September. The conference recommendations reflected the importance of increasing transparency by stating the “The EU must promote transparency globally and support initiatives adopted so that coastal countries publish the texts of access agreements, up-to-date lists of registered vessels, information on the global fishing effort per fishery, etc.” (2.1).

Mr. BIERMANN also informed the participants about the outcomes and learnings from the 2nd country visit of the FiTI Secretariat to Mauritania in the beginning of October. The team met with relevant stakeholders to discuss the 1st International FiTI Conference and the pilot implementation in 2016. Amongst others, the Secretariat met H.E. Sid’Ahmed RAÏSS, Minister of Economic Affairs and Development; H.E. Minister Nany Ould CHROUGHA, Minister of Fisheries and Maritime Economy and several high level staff from his ministry incl. Mr. Almamy Samboly BÂ, National Coordinator PRAO; H.E. Abdel Aziz DAHI, Governor of the Central Bank of Mauritania; the Groupe de l'UE pour la Pêche (GUEP) incl. representatives from European Commission, Peter Kristensen from the World Bank, the FAO and Embassies of Japan and Spain; the World Bank representative
in Mauritania Gaston SORGHO; H.E. Antonio TORRES-DULCE RUIZ, Ambassador of Spain to Mauritania; Ms. HERMES and Mr. EGGLI, GIZ. The Country visit also included a civil society/small-scale fisheries workshop with representatives from Mauritanie 2000, the CAOPA, PWYP, 3CM, FNP, PRCM and from the Mauritanian Parliament.

Mr. BIERMANN emphasized the importance of the 2nd country visit to start preparing the implementation of the initiative in 2016, enabling Mauritania to start establishing its FiTI National Multi-Stakeholder Group.

In summary, Mr. BIERMANN emphasized the key take-aways of the country visit:

- Increasing transparency in fisheries for Mauritania is very much welcomed among all relevant stakeholders;
- Ministerial roles and responsibilities between the Minister for Economic Affairs and Development and the Minister for Fisheries and Maritime Affairs regarding the FiTI have been clarified;
- Outreach efforts regarding the FiTI within Mauritania (especially regarding December Conference) need to be intensified;
- Procedures regarding active involvement of the civil society within the FiTI needs to be discussed (based on lessons learned from other initiatives);
- Preparations regarding the 1st International FiTI Conference are well under way.

Mohamed Salem NANY, Director of Resource Mobilization and External Aid Coordination, Ministry for Economic Affairs and Development, Islamic Republic of Mauritania, continued by informing the participants on the current status of the preparations for the 1st International FiTI Conference.

Mr. NANY stated that the government committed to make the conference a success as a key milestone for the implementation of the initiative. He emphasized that representatives of all stakeholders will be invited. He stated that several eminent speakers have already confirmed their participation, including H.E. Mohamed Ould ABDEL AZIZ, President of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania; H.E. Sid’Ahmed RAÏSS, Minister of Economic Affairs and Development, Mauritania; H. E. Susi PUDJIASTUTI, Minister of Marine Affairs and Fisheries (Indonesia); H. E. Jean-Paul ADAM, Minister of Finance, Trade and the Blue Economy (Seychelles), tbc.

He also outlined that international media representatives will be invited to cover the event and that it is planned to record video messages of the eminent speakers who will not be able to attend the conference. Moreover, he confirmed that the idea to organize a “Civil Society Day” prior to the conference is currently being discussed.
DISCUSS: SCOPE OF THE FITI

Mr. BIERMANN reminded the participants that it was recommended at the 1st Advisory Group meeting in Berlin (24 July 2015) to focus the information provision on ‘access to marine fisheries’. Consequently, the scope of the FiTI Reporting will therefore be on:

- **a country’s Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ):** The FiTI is a country-centered initiative and will therefore focus on a country’s EEZs, not covering high-seas.

- **tenure arrangements:** The FiTI will focus on providing information on the access rights to a country’s marine fish resources, not seeking, for the time being, a mandatory coverage of other parts of the value chain (e.g. processing, distribution).

- **marine fisheries:** The FiTI will focus on marine fisheries, not covering aquaculture or inland, fresh water fisheries. The FiTI will also not include other marine resources, such as underwater minerals, corals, sand, etc.

This focus was reconfirmed by all participants.

With respect to fishing **vessels**, it was suggested that domestic and non-domestic vessels should be covered (i.e. include all vessels fishing in the EEZs as well as domestic vessels fishing on high-seas and in the EEZs of other countries). It was agreed that this requires further considerations.

It was agreed that the FiTI Reporting should distinguish between large-scale (“industrial”) fisheries and small-scale (“artisanal”) fisheries. In this regard, the **importance of including small-scale fisheries** within the FiTI was emphasized again. It was mentioned that the role of semi-industrial fisheries need to be clarified as well.

With respect to **stakeholders contributing to information collection and verification**, it was again emphasized that all three major stakeholder groups must be invited to contribute. However, characteristics of each group must be considered. For example, civil society typically does not have comprehensive information on catches or revenues. It was also highlighted that even though small-scale vessels represent the majority of vessels in most countries, they are unlikely to provide any data themselves. It was further questioned whether governments can provide this kind of data for individual vessels. These challenges need to be further explored.

Furthermore, the point was raised that the presented list of transparency elements refers largely to flag state obligations. Whether all **information is available through the host nation is questionable**. Approaches must be checked to ensure that all relevant stakeholders are contributing; i.e. host governments, flag states, rights holders and vessels owners, representative bodies as well as national and international civil society organizations.
With respect to the **costs of information collection and verification**, the participants stressed the need to keep financial and resource cost considerations in mind when defining the information collection and verification framework. This was in particular discussed regarding the inclusion of an independent external national administrator (in charge of collecting and clarifying the initial round of information) and a regular validation through the FiTI International Secretariat. It was emphasized that typically fisheries stakeholders do not have the same financial capacity as companies from other sectors (e.g. oil, gas, and mining). A process that ensures a high level of data quality but is perceived as too costly will most likely reduce the attractiveness of this initiative. Furthermore, it was mentioned that the FiTI must be applicable and feasible also for small countries (e.g. Small Island Developing States). Their potential capacity constraints need to be recognized when designing the process of FiTI reporting (collecting, verifying, publishing).

With regards to the **availability of data**, it was raised that the FiTI should take into account that some of the information may not be available (notably regarding small-scale fisheries) and thus that countries might not be able to report on them initially – even if they want to. It was therefore emphasized that countries unable to report on certain transparency elements initially should not be prohibited from starting the FiTI implementation process. Participants recognized though that this should primarily be applicable to data from small-scale fisheries. The impact of data lacking from large-scale fisheries to the overall FiTI reporting process needs to be further elaborated.

This aspect will be further elaborated in the ‘working group on small-scale fisheries’ (WGSSF) and the ‘working group on large scale fisheries’ (WGLSF).

**Confidentially clauses** in contracts was highlighted and discussed as one major implementation challenge for large-scale fisheries. The participants however said that the FiTI should contribute to remove such clauses from agreements and contracts. Peter EIGEN mentioned that the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI) faced a similar challenge in the beginning. Under the EITI, there is now the procedure that if confidentiality clauses prevent companies from publishing commercially sensitive information, the government must provide a clear and unambiguous indication to each company – typically via an official letter – that the clause does not apply in the case of EITI implementation.

This aspect will be addressed within the ‘working group on large scale fisheries’.

With respect to **transparency of agreements and contracts** it was highlighted that the current approach seeks to make key information from these documents publically available, but the publication of the entire contract is currently not demanded. Participants mentioned the importance of full contract transparency and that the FiTI should not be afraid to ask for contracts to be published. However, the impact of such a requirement on a country’s FiTI status needs to be further defined.

With regards to the **transparency of payments** it was mentioned that both aspects, the revenues originally agreed in the tenure arrangement as well as the actual payments should be made public...
(especially relevant for large-scale fisheries). With regards to actual payments, potential challenges regarding the exact reporting timeframe (accruals) were raised. Furthermore, the importance to look at money flows (origin and destination) was mentioned.

It was emphasized to integrate a regional dimension under the FiTI. Participants agreed that this would provide various benefits (e.g. information on migrating species), but that this aspect should be considered at a later stage under the FiTI. The importance of collaborating with Regional Fisheries Organizations/Bodies at this point in time was nevertheless recognized.

Also, post-harvesting activities (e.g. landing, storage, distribution) were considered to be important. Transparency on these activities is needed in order to understand how much a country gets for its fish resources. However, the group recognized that the FiTI should initially focus on “access to marine fisheries” and follow its “progressive improvement” principle (agreed on in the 1st Advisory Group meeting); thus starting with a modest set of key transparency elements while recognizing the possibility for more comprehensive elements in the future.

Based on the outcomes of the 1st Advisory Group meeting in Berlin (24 July 2015), the participants continued their discussions on the three core categories in the FiTI Reporting:

1. Tenure Arrangements (*Who has the right to fish?*)
2. Payments (*What is paid for the right to fish?*)
3. Catches (*How much is extracted?*)

The discussions focused mainly on large-scale fisheries. Participants reconfirmed the proposed reporting scope as presented by Sven BIERMANN, but recognized the operational challenges that lie ahead when clearly defining detailed specifications in the FiTI Standard.

### 1. Tenure Arrangements

Individual comments with respect to this category included:

- The list of individual rights holders could include information on beneficial ownership. However, the feasibility of including this under the FiTI reporting needs further discussion, including whether governments or companies would have the responsibility for reporting. A precise definition of beneficial ownership would be needed to cover specific country characteristics (e.g. joint ventures).
- FiTI reports should include a full list of registered vessels, and not be confined to a list of vessels authorized to fish in the country’s EEZ.
- FiTI reporting should include the IMO numbers for vessels.
- FiTI reports should consider including information on both the vessel owners and vessel operators, as these can be different.
These comments will be addressed within the next Advisory Group meetings or in the relevant working group (small-scale fisheries, large-scale fisheries).

### 2. Payments

Individual comments with respect to this category included:

- There was support for ensuring the FiTI reporting captures information on actual payments, as these may diverge from the payments stated in contracts or legislation. However, it was noted that some licensing arrangements might include a confidentiality clause. This could pose difficulties for governments reporting on actual payments received from companies.

- The FiTI should ensure that the full range of payments between fishing companies and the government are captured, which could include payments for port visits and on-board observers. However, it was described that the full range of payments related to access arrangements may be difficult to capture, including where access is linked to development aid payments, or where companies provide additional funds for local capacity building.

- There was support for including fines & penalties in the FiTI reporting, as these are important sources of government income and are also important in understanding the national response to illegal fishing.

- The FiTI reporting should identify the government authority that is the recipients of specific payments.

These comments will be addressed within the next Advisory Group meetings or in the relevant working group (small-scale fisheries, large-scale fisheries).

### Catches

Individual comments with respect to this elements included:

- It was agreed that comprehensive aggregated data on catches may not be available in all countries wanting to participate in the FiTI, or this data may be available with a significant time delay (1-2 years). For this reason, the FiTI reporting may consider focusing on certain key commercial species.

- In addition to reporting on catches taken from the country’s EEZ, the FiTI Country Reports could also include information on fish landings in the country, which would include data on catches landed locally but derived from fishing in another EEZ or on the high seas.

- There was concern about the burden being placed on companies to provide catch data. Many ship owners already report their catches on a regular basis, including electronically, to government authorities. This means that governments should be responsible for providing data to the FiTI on reported catches, not companies.
It was noted that foreign flagged vessels should report catch data to their flag state. This should be considered in the processes of verifying catch data at the national level where this is being caught by foreign flagged vessels. These comments will be addressed within the next Advisory Group meetings or in the relevant working group (small-scale fisheries, large-scale fisheries).

For the implementation it was again emphasized that the FiTI would play an important role in implementing transparency principles encoded in various international instruments such as Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security (Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations; 2012); the Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication (Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations; 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 – Bali Guidelines (UNEP, 2010); the Policy Framework and Reform Strategy for Fisheries and Aquaculture in Africa (African Union, 2014); and the EU’s latest Common Fisheries Policy.

For example, implementing the FiTI could help to push the implementation of relevant transparency legislation on national levels.

**PLAN**

Participants agreed fully that the inclusion of small-scale fisheries is key to the impact of the FiTI. As this requires addressing particular challenges (e.g. lack of data), it was decided to establish a Working Group on small-scale fisheries. The following participants agreed to participate in this group: Mechthild KRONEN, Rolf WILLMANN, Gaoussou GUEYE (committed himself during a country visit by FiTI Secretariat after the Rome meeting), and Jean-Louis KROMER (committed himself after the meeting). The FiTI Secretariat will reach out to other relevant stakeholders. The group will present their current discussions during the 3rd International Advisory Group meeting.

It has been agreed to move the 1st International Conference to early 2016 to ensure participation of the majority of important stakeholders. The new date of the 1st International FiTI Conference is now 3rd of February 2016.

The 3rd International Advisory Group meeting will take place on 4th February 2016 in Nouakchott, back to back with the 1st International FiTI Conference in Nouakchott, Mauritania.
APPENDIX I: List of Participants

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<th>Organization (in alphabetical order)</th>
<th>Name</th>
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<tr>
<td>Central European University</td>
<td>Stephen STEC</td>
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<tr>
<td>Commonwealth Human Ecology Council</td>
<td>Nicholas WATTS</td>
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<tr>
<td>Confederación Española de Pesca (Cepesca)</td>
<td>Javier GARAT</td>
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<tr>
<td>Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ)</td>
<td>Mechthild KRONEN</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>European Commission – Directorate General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries</td>
<td>Kristofer DU RIETZ</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Federal Agency for Fisheries, Federation of Russia</td>
<td>Alexander OKHANOV</td>
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<tr>
<td>Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN (FAO)</td>
<td>Jacqueline ALDER</td>
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<td>Greenpeace</td>
<td>Sebastian LOSADA</td>
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<tr>
<td>Instituto Costarricense de Pesca y Acuicultura (Incopesca), Representative of the government of Costa Rica</td>
<td>Walter CRUZ SANDOVAL</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mauritanie 2000</td>
<td>Nedwa NECH</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ambassador of Mauritania to Italy</td>
<td>H.E. Mariem MINT AOUFA</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ministry for Economic Affairs and Development, Islamic Republic of Mauritania</td>
<td>Yacoub AHMED AICHA</td>
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Participants may not necessarily reflect the official opinion of their organisation 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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<th>Ministry of Fisheries and Maritime Economy, Islamic Republic of Mauritania</th>
<th>Almamy Samboly BÂ</th>
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<tr>
<td>Ministry for Economic Affairs and Development, Islamic Republic of Mauritania</td>
<td>Mohamed Salem NANY</td>
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<td>Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries, Republic of Indonesia</td>
<td>Mas Achmad SANTOSA</td>
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<td>Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries, Republic of Indonesia</td>
<td>Aldilla Stephanie SUWANA</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries, Republic of Indonesia</td>
<td>Agung Tri PRASETYO</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oceana</td>
<td>María José CORNAX</td>
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<tr>
<td>Seychelles Fisheries Authority, Seychelles</td>
<td>Philippe MICHAUD</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sustainable Fisheries Partnership (SFP)</td>
<td>Andrew DONALDSON</td>
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<tr>
<td>Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management</td>
<td>Gunilla TEGELSkrä GREIG</td>
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<tr>
<td>World Bank Group</td>
<td>Xavier VINCENT</td>
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<tr>
<td>Independent Expert (former FAO)</td>
<td>Rolf WILLMANN</td>
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<tr>
<td>HUMBOLDT-VIADRINA Governance Platform</td>
<td>Mr. Peter Eigen</td>
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<td>HUMBOLDT-VIADRINA Governance Platform</td>
<td>Ms. Andréa Durighello</td>
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<td>Mr. Sebastian Wegner</td>
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<td>Advisor to HUMBOLDT-VIADRINA Governance Platform</td>
<td>Mr. Edward Harris</td>
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<td>Advisor to HUMBOLDT-VIADRINA Governance Platform</td>
<td>Mr. André Standing</td>
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APPENDIX II: Agenda of the meeting

Tuesday – 20 October 2015

19:00 – 21:00 Informal Dinner

Venue: Restaurant La Villetta dal 1940 Roma
Viale delle Piramide Cestia, 53
00153, Roma

Wednesday – 21 October 2015

Venue: Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN (Headquarter)
Viale delle Terme di Caracalla
00153 Rome, Italy
Malaysia room (B227)

Translation: Please note that English/French translation will be available.

08:30 – 09:00 Arrival of participants

09:00 – 09:30 Opening remarks

Audun Lem, Deputy Director Policy and Economics Division Fisheries and Aquaculture Department, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)

H.E. Sid’Ahmed Raïss, Minister for Economic Affairs and Development, Islamic Republic of Mauritania

H.E. Mariem MINT AOUFA, Ambassador of Mauritania to Italy

Almamy Samboly BÂ, National Coordinator of the West African Regional Fisheries Program (WARFP/PRAO)

Peter Eigen, Co-founder of the HUMBOLDT-VIADRINA Governance Platform, Chair of the FiTI Advisory Group

09:30 – 09:45 Brief introduction of participants and their organizations
09:45 – 10:15  Update on current status

Sven Biermann, Interim Program Director of the FiTI

Mohamed Salem Nany, Ministry for Economic Affairs and Development, Islamic Republic of Mauritania

- Outreach activities
- 2nd Country visit to Mauritania
- December conference

10:15 – 10:30  Coffee break

10:30 – 12:00  Transparency regarding ‘Access to marine fisheries’

An initial input will be presented, based on the information provided in the accompanying document “Preparatory Information”, chapter 4

Group Discussion

12:00 – 13:30  Lunch

13:30 – 15:00  Transparency regarding other elements

Group Discussion

15:00 – 15:15  Coffee break

15:15 – 16:30  Value Propositions & FiTI Principles

Group Discussion, based on the information provided in the accompanying document “Preparatory Information”, chapters 1 and 2

16:30 – 17:00  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
Second Meeting of the International Advisory Group of the Fisheries Transparency Initiative (FITI)
Rome, 21 October 2015

Mr. Chairman,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Let me thank the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations for hosting this second Meeting of the International Advisory Group of our Fisheries Transparency Initiative, today in Rome. This is a great pleasure for me to meet again with all of you to take stock of the progress made in our work since our first meeting in Berlin in July.

I would like also to thank very much the FiTI Secretariat for the work done since July in view of this second meeting. I thank in particular Professor Dr. Peter EIGEN, Chairman of the FiTI International Advisory Group, for his commitment and support to this initiative.

As agreed in Berlin, this meeting focuses on discussing key areas to substantiate the Initiative:

- The FiTI Principles
- Further details on the FiTI “transparency elements”

Moreover, discussions will continue on the key issues we identified, relating to:

- Data availability
- Involvement of all relevant stakeholders at national level

Finding adequate answers to all these questions is critical for the preparation of the official launch of the Initiative. I hope the discussions here in Rome will help converge on common views in that regard.
As you know, the President of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania has proposed to host in Nouakchott the international Conference that will launch the FiTI Initiative and present to all stakeholders its content.

The Mauritanian Government is committed to organize a successful Conference. A preliminary date has been retained on December, which offers only 2 remaining months to continue preparing this event.

I hosted a technical mission from the HUMBOLDT-VIADRINA Governance Platform in Nouakchott, early October, to prepare the conference. The experts exchanged views with my Ministry’s team on the preparation process and met with various officials from the Ministry of Fisheries as well as Donors and civil society to present the event.

A preliminary list of invitation has been set-up and official invitations have been already sent or are going to be sent in the next days. We hope to secure high-level attendance from international organizations, public sector and government’s officials and Ministers, the private sector, members of the Academic community, donors and civil society. We count on all participants to support the invitation process and convince key stakeholders to come.

I thank the HUMBOLDT-VIADRINA Governance Platform for its efforts to promote the conference with other governments, in Senegal, Costa Rica, Seychelles, Indonesia and Peru, for example.

I myself promoted the conference in Lima at the IMF/World Bank Annual Meetings where I have met with Her Excellency Minister Isabella Lovin, Minister for International Development Cooperation of Sweden, well-known for her strong commitment to good governance and transparency in fisheries sector in the European Parliament. The success of FiTI would be helped enormously by the endorsement of such a credible and eminent figure whose public statements on fisheries are consistent with the vision of FiTI. I am also convinced we can benefit from the COP 21 and the mobilization of the international community on environmental issues.

Considering the existing limited capacity to travel to Mauritania and to stay in hotels in Nouakchott, we choose to focus on the quality of participants and to limit to around two hundred people the number of participants.

We will benefit from the financial support of the World Bank, the African Development Bank and the Arab Fund to set-up the conference. I thank very much these institutions for their contribution.

We hope to benefit from a large media coverage to promote the initiative worldwide, and to highlight the importance of transparency in a sector that is important source of livelihoods in coastal countries around the world.

I am honored to announce here in advance that Mauritania will be adhering to the Initiative and will disclose it publicly at the end of the conference once the principles are defined.
Let me know clarify other important points, relevant for the preparation process.

1/ I was questioned on the role of my Ministry, the Ministry for Economic Affairs and Development, in the preparation process, and its relations with the Mauritanian Ministry of Fisheries.

Let me be clear: my Ministry has been designated as the primary body in charge of the conference, considering its role as the entity in charge of implanting transparency and good governance in all Development Strategies.

Nonetheless, the Fisheries Ministries is fully involved in the process and will participate in the conference. The mission from the HUMBOLDT-VIADRINA Governance Platform in Nouakchott early October met with the Minister for Fisheries and this point was clearly stated.

2/ Another issues related to the articulation of the FiTI with the EITI.

The Mauritanian authorities believe the two processes should remain separate.

EITI focuses on oil, gas and mining industries, which are clearly specific.

FiTI will cover a different and specific sector and should remain clearly identifiable. Very different stakeholders, especially from the business sector but also from civil society and from the government, are required.

My Ministry and the Mauritanian Fisheries Ministry will therefore issue a joint statement that the process of implementing the Fisheries Transparency Initiative in Mauritania will be separate from the existing process of the EITI in Mauritania. This statement will thus alter the current Fisheries Policy with regards to this point. We strongly believe that this separation is needed to bring the best available expertise from all 3 stakeholder groups together in a National Multi-Stakeholder Group, one for Oil, Gas and Mining and one for Fisheries.

Obviously, operational synergies between these two groups will be identified and sought.

Dear participants,

I would like to hear from you on the preparation of the FiTI principals and if you have any suggestions for the conference and I stand ready to answer your questions.

I count on your full mobilization to ensure the success of this important event a large participation and commitments to FiTI from numerous countries will help to send a strong signal
towards maintaining marine resources in a sector that lacks transparency, but remains a major source of livelihood in coastal countries. And of course I hope to see you all in Nouakchott in December. Kindly note that the Government of Mauritania is prepared to support especially the representatives from civil society and small-scale fisheries to attend this event.

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