

## Minutes of the Working Group for Large-Scale Fisheries

<b>MEETING TITLE</b>	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of FiTI Working Group for Large-Scale Fisheries</b>
<b>MEETING PURPOSE (AGENDA)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Discuss current status of Working Group</li> <li>• Define next steps</li> </ul>
<b>MEETING DATE</b>	4 February 2016
<b>MEETING TIME</b>	16.30 – 18.00 (Local time)
<b>MEETING LOCATION</b>	Nouakchott / Mauritania
<b>ATTENDEES</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maria CORNAX (Oceana)</li> <li>• Béatrice GOREZ (Coalition for Fair Fisheries Arrangements)</li> <li>• Gunilla TEGELSKÄR GREIG (Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management)</li> <li>• Gaoussou GUEYE (CAOPA)</li> <li>• Riza DAMANIK (Kesatuan Nelayan Tradisional Indonesia)</li> <li>• Pavel KLINCKHAMERS (Greenpeace)</li> <li>• Jean-Louis KROMER (African Development Bank)</li> <li>• Francisco MARI (Bread for the World)</li> <li>• Philippe MICHAUD (Seychelles Fishing Authority)</li> <li>• Julio MORÓN (Confederación Española de Pesca)</li> <li>• Alexandre RODRÍGUEZ (LDAC)</li> <li>• Eduardo ROLÓN (Causa Natura)</li> <li>• Alfred SCHUMM (WWF)</li> <li>• Sven BIERMANN (FiTI Secretariat)</li> <li>• Andréa DURIGHELLO (FiTI Secretariat)</li> <li>• André STANDING (FiTI Secretariat, Adviser)</li> <li>• Sebastian WEGNER (FiTI Secretariat)</li> </ul>
<b>SUPPORTING INFORMATION</b>	None
<b>MEETING MINUTES FROM</b>	29 February 2016

## BACKGROUND

- 1) At the 3<sup>rd</sup> International Advisory Group meeting, held in Mauritania on 4 February 2016, a session was dedicated to the outcomes of the two FiTI Working Groups established after the 2<sup>nd</sup> International Advisory Group in Rome (October 2015). These two FiTI Working Groups address small-scale fisheries and large-scale fisheries. The objective of both Working Groups is to advise the FiTI International Advisory Group on the information and methods of data collation that will comprise FiTI country reports.
- 2) Preparatory information (dated 29 January 2016) was presented to the International Advisory Group on the recommendations made by each Working Group, as well as a description of the unresolved issues.
- 3) Following the 3<sup>rd</sup> International Advisory Group meeting, members of the FiTI Working Group for large-scale fisheries held a separate meeting to discuss their work. Several members of the Advisory Group who are not members of the Working Group attended this session.

## GENERAL POINTS

- 1) A recommendation made to the International Advisory Group from both FiTI Working Groups was the need for feasibility study work to illustrate how FiTI reports would look like, and to explore the methodological challenges involved in compiling these reports. It was suggested that this study work is completed before the next meeting of the Advisory Group. It was agreed that the FiTI Secretariat will co-ordinate such feasibility studies in two countries, provisionally identified to be Mauritania and the Seychelles. The choice of feasibility studies was partly to include those countries that have committed to be part of the FiTI, and also to provide contrasting country scenarios. It was noted that the case study reports are not intended to be final FiTI reports, but will be used to compile data so that the International Advisory Group can visualize the final reports, and refine their contents.
- 2) There was a request to share information on the FiTI Working Groups more widely with the International Advisory Group. It was agreed that any working documents will be made available to the advisory group through the FiTI website, and that more regular communications will be sent to the International Advisory Group about the activities and discussions of the two Working Groups.
- 3) Members of both Working Groups emphasized challenges regarding communications within their groups. So far discussions have relied on telephone conferences. This has not been ideal and is causing slow progress. It was agreed that both groups should starting share more

information via emails and documents, and that André Standing will start reaching out to individuals in the group to gain their views on key issues.

- 4) It was agreed that a 2-day Technical Meeting should take place for both FiTI Working Groups in the next few months to discuss the reporting elements and methodology in more detail, provisionally identified for April in Berlin. The FiTI Secretariat will coordinate this meeting.
- 5) The lack of translation to French during calls, meetings as well as the documents being presented from the two Working Groups were identified as unfavorable. This was acknowledged to be a challenge by the FiTI Secretariat and there was a commitment to ensure all key documents for the Advisory Group will be available in both English and French, and there will be simultaneous translation available in all subsequent meetings.
- 6) A question was raised about the role of the International Advisory Group in making decisions regarding the FiTI Standard. While the objective of the group is to reach consensus on a joint approach in the common interest, no clear operational rules are in place yet (e.g. on procedures in case a consensus cannot be reached within the group). It was noted that this topic will be on the agenda for the 4<sup>th</sup> International Advisory Group meeting.
- 7) Finally, it was noted that there was not sufficient time to discuss the preparatory information prepared by the two FiTI Working Groups during the 3<sup>rd</sup> International Advisory Group meeting in Mauritania. Therefore, some issues were not discussed completely. It was therefore acknowledged that subsequent meetings of the International Advisory Group need to give more time to open discussions on the technical elements of the FiTI.

#### **MATTERS RELATING TO THE WORKING GROUP ON LARGE-SCALE FISHERIES**

- 1) During the 3<sup>rd</sup> International Advisory Group meeting, it was agreed that reporting elements for the large-scale sector should be considered mandatory for FiTI implementing countries, thereby differentiating the rules on reporting for the small-scale sector.
- 2) There was support for the proposal made by Greenpeace that FiTI implementing countries should only be considered compliant with the FiTI if governments publish relevant fisheries laws and regulations. However, there was no firm agreement on whether countries should only be considered FiTI compliant if they published contracts and texts of fisheries agreements held with third countries and companies. It was noted that there might be confidentiality clauses in these agreements that prohibit the publishing of these documents. The Working Group was requested to provide further guidance on this to the International Advisory Group, and this should be explored in the case study work.

- 3) Several members of the International Advisory Group supported the proposal for FiTI country reports to contain a complete list of nationally registered vessels, including those fishing on the high seas and in third country's waters. However, the International Advisory Group did not reach any firm agreement and what information is included in the FiTI reports about nationally flagged vessels operating beyond the national EEZ, which could include information on their reported catches and payments to third countries. This again needs to be explored further as part of the Working Group on Large-Scale Fisheries.
- 4) The Advisory Group discussed the potential benefits of including information on fines and penalties for large-scale fishing vessels in FiTI country reports. This information was considered by some to be relevant to FiTI and should be included in FiTI country reports. However, it was recognized that in practice reporting on fines and penalties could be difficult where these are contested in court. The International Advisory Group therefore suggested the Working Group on Large-Scale Fisheries to explore what options exist for including this information in FiTI reports.
- 5) The International Advisory Group considered whether to include information on fishing agents in the reporting elements for FiTI. It was noted that countries differ in terms of national legislation on the use of fishing agents, and that some countries make the use of fishing agents mandatory for gaining a fishing license, whereas others do not. There was no firm agreement on whether to include details of the fishing agents in FiTI reports, including on the amount of money paid by companies to these agents. Again, this was something that the Working Group on Large-Scale Fisheries was encouraged to reflect on further and report back to the International Advisory Group at its next meeting.

#### **MATTERS RELATING TO THE WORKING GROUP ON SMALL-SCALE FISHERIES**

- 1) The discussion continued from the 3<sup>rd</sup> International Advisory Group meeting on the need to include information on the post-harvest sector. Several members of the International Advisory Group stated their support for this, as it is important for the FiTI to capture information on the entire value of the small-scale sector. Moreover, without including the post-harvest sector, the role of women in fisheries would not be illustrated in FiTI reports. Nevertheless, it was also noted that the inclusion of the post-harvest sector would make FiTI reports more ambitious, and would have implications for the reporting on the large-scale sector, which should mirror the reporting for the small-scale sector by also including information on post-harvest activities. This important issue was not resolved at the 3<sup>rd</sup> International Advisory Group meeting, and requires further consideration by both FiTI Working Groups and a final decision by the International Advisory Group at their next meeting.
- 2) The participants also exchanged ideas on the case for including payments from the small-scale fishing sector in FiTI reports. It was noted that if payments are included in an FiTI country

report, care should be taken in how this information is presented as it may give a false impression of the value of small-scale fisheries in comparison to large scale fisheries. However, it was noted that FiTI country reports should have information on employment and catches, which will convey the importance of the sector for livelihoods and food security.

- 3) There was some support for including information on donor funded projects in the fisheries sector within FiTI country reports, as these are important for the small-scale sector to be aware of. However, it was suggested this information is not part of formal reporting requirements and could be considered as supplemental information only, which would be included in FiTI reports as contextual information. It was noted that transparency in aid is being approached through other international transparency initiatives (i.e. International Aid Transparency Initiative (IATI)), and the FiTI should not replicate this work.

#### NEXT STEPS

#### TASKS:

- **FiTI Secretariat** will propose date for 2-day Technical Working Group meeting in Berlin
- **André Standing** will reach out to both FiTI Working Groups to initiate concrete discussions and plan next steps (especially with regards to the planned 2-day Technical Working Group meeting in Berlin)