



Fisheries  
Transparency  
Initiative

# Meeting Minutes

10 July 2017, Conference Call

## Meeting Minutes

ID: BM-01\_2017\_MM

**Provided by:** FITI International Secretariat

**Date:** 18.08.2017

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<b>Time</b>	02.00 p.m. – 3.30 p.m. (CEST)
<b>Venue</b>	Conference Call
<b>Hosted by</b>	-
<b>Inputs</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Preparatory Paper for 1<sup>st</sup> International Board (EN/FR)</b> [ID: FiTI_BM_01_PP]</li> <li>- <b>Draft Terms of Reference for the International Board (EN/FR)</b> [FiTI_IB_ToRs_EN_20170623.pdf; FiTI_IB_ToRs_FR_20170623.pdf]</li> </ul>

## Outcomes of meeting

### 1. Welcome and Administration

The Chair of the FiTI International Board, Peter EIGEN, opened the meeting by welcoming the Board Members to the first meeting of the Board. The Chair welcomed especially the new member of the Board, Gunilla GREIG, who was designated by the Swedish Government to be a representative of the “Countries” stakeholder group.

Apologies were noted from Abass SYLLA, Mas Achmad SANTOSA, María José CORNAX, and Alfred SCHUMM.

The Chair introduced that no decision shall be made by the FiTI International Board unless a quorum is present at the time of the decision. According to the draft Terms of Reference (which were subject to adoption by the Board later in the meeting), at least two-thirds of the total number of Board Members, with at least two Board Members from each constituency, establish a quorum.<sup>1</sup>

With no objections to this, the Chair confirmed that a quorum was therefore reached for this meeting.

The Board agreed the Agenda.

### 2. Report from the FiTI International Secretariat

The Chair invited Sven BIERMANN, Director of the FiTI International Secretariat, to provide an update on the concluded and planned key activities of the Secretariat.

#### a) Status of Secretariat personnel

Sven recalled the announcement made by the Government of the Seychelles at the 2<sup>nd</sup> FiTI International Conference (Bali, 27 April 2017) to host the FiTI International Secretariat in the Seychelles (para. 15, Bali Communiqué on the FiTI, 27 April 2017). Sven indicated that until the completion of the transition (expected mid/end of 2018), the FiTI International Secretariat will continue operating from Berlin, where Sven and Sebastian WEGNER are based. Furthermore, starting beginning of July 2017, Andréa DURIGHELLO operates out of Abidjan/Côte d’Ivoire, from where she will coordinate FiTI implementation in West African countries.

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<sup>1</sup> Extract from Terms of Reference, para. 3 (draft: 23 June 2017): „No decision shall be made by the FiTI International Board meeting unless a quorum is present at the time of making the decision. At least two-thirds of the total number of Board Members, with at least two Board Members from each constituency, establish a quorum.“

## **b) Funding situation (next 12 months)**

Sven stated that the Government of the Seychelles submitted a funding request to the Arab Bank for Economic Development in Africa (BADEA). The request covers the support of the FiTI sign-up step implementation in the Seychelles as well as funding of the FiTI International Secretariat for the next 12 months. Philippe MICHAUD stated that a response from BADEA is still pending. Sven outlined that the financial support for the FiTI International Secretariat covers primarily personnel costs for the current staff (Sven, Sebastian, Andréa) and its Technical Advisor (André STANDING) and a limited number of outreach activities, but does not cover expenses for on-site FiTI International Board meetings.

He emphasized that it was therefore necessary to find additional funding for on-site Board meetings as well as further outreach activities.

## **c) Outreach activities<sup>2</sup>**

Sven summarized the major outreach activities of the FiTI International Secretariat since the 2<sup>nd</sup> FiTI International Conference:

- On 16-17 May 2017, the FiTI International Secretariat was invited to participate in the **International Conference on Seafood Transparency towards Sustainable Fisheries** at the Waseda University in Tokyo/Japan. This conference was co-organized by the Japan Fisheries Research and Education Agency (FRA), Waseda University and The Nature Conservancy (TNC) and was attended by approximately 300 participants, representing government, the private sector, academia, media and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations. Sven reported that this was a good opportunity to present the FiTI as well as to establish new contacts with a wide range of stakeholders in Japan as well as international stakeholders. Sven mentioned that the topic of IUU fishing is becoming an increasingly important topic in the country. Japan recently ratified the Port State Measures Agreement.
- On 21 June 2017, the FiTI International Secretariat was invited by the **PECH Committee of the European Parliament** to present the initiative in Brussels/Belgium. This meeting was convened by two EU Parliamentarians, Linnéa ENGSTRÖM and Julie GIRLING. Sven gave a short presentation about the FiTI. It was further agreed to schedule an additional breakfast meeting after the summer recess to increase the interest among EU Parliamentarians and other stakeholders further.
- On 27-28 June 2017, the FiTI International Secretariat co-organized a **Western Indian Ocean Regional Workshop on the Fisheries Transparency Initiative in Mahé/Seychelles** with the African Development Bank, the Government of the Seychelles and the Indian

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<sup>2</sup> Outreach activities of the FiTI International Secretariat are regularly updated at <http://fisheriestransparency.org/events-and-news/fiti-on-the-road>

Ocean Commission. The workshop gathered more than 30 representatives of the fishing industry, civil society, governments and fishing administrations from the Seychelles, Comoros, Mauritius, Madagascar, Tanzania, Kenya and Mozambique. The 2-day workshop focused on the following three key objectives:

- Enhance the understanding of fisheries administrations and other key stakeholders regarding the FiTI (and in particular FiTI Standard) and its applicability and value-addition for countries in the Western Indian Ocean region;
- Discuss benefits, practical implementation challenges and synergy opportunities of the FiTI in the context of the Western Indian Ocean region;
- Increase the interest of the IOC and Eastern African countries to participate in FiTI and adhere to the FiTI standard

In addition, time was also allocated for discussions on the current situation of the Seychelles in implementing the sign-up steps, which are required by the FiTI Standard for countries to become an official FiTI Candidate country.<sup>3</sup>

- Sven reported that the FiTI International Secretariat is also conducting outreach activities in various Latin American countries. For example, the FiTI is currently in contact with stakeholders from **Peru**. Furthermore, Peter EIGEN took part in several meetings with government representatives as well as other relevant stakeholders in **Chile**. Eduardo ROLÓN indicated that in **Mexico**, progress is being made together with the Ministry of Fisheries to organize a multi-stakeholder meeting with representatives from the civil society and the industry and that the FiTI would be included as a key topic. The possibility of the FiTI International Secretariat participating in this meeting via videoconference is currently being explored. It was agreed that Peter would contact the Mexican Chapter of Transparency International regarding the FiTI.

Finally, Sven reported that a main outreach activity for the upcoming weeks will be to promote the FiTI among the African Union (AU), in particular with the President of Guinea, H.E. Prof. Alpha Condé, who is the current Chair of the AU. Sven informed the Board Members that the FiTI International Secretariat is currently preparing official correspondence to the Guinean President as well as other important stakeholders in Africa.

### 3. Adoption of the Terms of Reference for the FiTI International Board

At the Chair's request, the FiTI International Secretariat prepared draft Terms of Reference (ToRs) for the FiTI International Board for discussion and adoption at the 1<sup>st</sup> Board Meeting. The purpose of the ToRs is to define the purpose, structure and operational procedures of the FiTI

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<sup>3</sup> The meeting report is available at [www.fisheriestransparency.org](http://www.fisheriestransparency.org)

International Board. The draft was sent out to all FiTI International Board Members on 23 June 2017 via email.

The Chair asked the Board Members whether the ToRs could be adopted in their present form or whether there were any points for discussion or clarification.

The following points were discussed:

- Gunilla GREIG raised the question regarding the responsibility of the Board Members to hold **regular consultations with their respective stakeholder groups ahead of FiTI International Board meetings**<sup>4</sup>. Sven BIERMANN clarified that the term “stakeholder group” corresponds to the representatives of a constituency, who will eventually be members of the FiTI Association (or other applicable legal form). Each stakeholder group should define the best way to conduct such regular consultations (e.g. by appointing a lead organization within the stakeholder group). It was acknowledged that as long as the FiTI Association is not yet officially established, Board Members should use a pragmatic approach to consult with their respective stakeholders.
- Gunilla also raised the question of replacement of a Board Member in case of absence at a Board meeting. According to the ToRs, each Board Member – except the Chair – may have an Alternate, who is welcome to observe meetings and substitutes for the Board Member in case of absence of the Board Member. Alternatively, Alternates may also serve as substitutes for various Board Members.<sup>5</sup> Sven responded by explaining that, for the 1<sup>st</sup> FiTI International Board, there will be general Alternates who would substitute an absent Board Member from their stakeholder group. Therefore, in case of absence, this entails that a Board Member cannot be replaced by a member of her/his organisation/institution. She/he will be replaced by an Alternate. Sven reemphasized that this is due to the fact that Board Members act in their personal capacity, representing their respective stakeholder group, and not as representative of their own organization/institution. Furthermore, Sven outlined that the FiTI is seeking to recruit additional Alternates, after the vacant seats on the Board for the stakeholder groups of Countries and Business are filled.

As no other intervention were made, the Chair asked whether the ToRs could be adopted in their present form.

**Decision [BM-01 2017 D-01]:**

**The FiTI International Board agreed to adopt the Terms of Reference, as presented in draft on 23 June 2017.**

The FiTI International Secretariat will publish the adopted ToR at the FiTI website.

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<sup>4</sup> Ref, Para 4.2.d, Draft Terms of Reference for the FiTI International Board

<sup>5</sup> Ref. Para. 1.(1).3, Draft Terms of Reference for the FiTI International Board

#### 4. Approach to fill vacant International Board Member seats

The Chair summarized the current status of the FiTI International Board. Since the 2<sup>nd</sup> FiTI International Conference, the Swedish Government designated Gunilla GREIG to be a representative of the “Countries” stakeholder group to the FiTI International Board.

The Chair indicated that there are nevertheless still vacant positions. The current status is that 2 more members for the “Countries” stakeholder group and 3 more members for the “Business” stakeholder group are needed.

Sven BIERMANN stated that the invitations which have been provided to the Government of Costa Rica and Guinea are still pending. Discussions with other governments are ongoing. The Chair proposed that a systematic approach to recruiting additional Board members needs to be determined.

The Chair proposed to establish a Working Group from within the FiTI International Board to determine potential candidates for the vacant seats. The Chair proposed that the Working Group should be composed of one representative from each stakeholder group. This Working Group will be operationally supported by the FiTI International Secretariat.

##### Decision [BM-01\_2017\_D-02]:

**The FiTI International Board agreed to establish a dedicated Working Group to recruit additional Board members for the vacant seats.**

**The following Board Members volunteered to participate in the Working Group: Alexander BIRYUKOV (Business), Gunilla GREIG (Countries) and Francisco MARI (Civil Society). The candidates were approved by the FiTI International Board.**

The Chair raised the point that while the final decision to accept new members lies with the FiTI International Board, it must be decided whether candidates identified through the Working Group can already be approached by the FiTI International Secretariat to discuss their availability etc., or whether this also requires approval by the FiTI International Board.

##### Decision [BM-01\_2017\_D-03]:

**The FiTI International Board agreed that the International Secretariat in cooperation with the Working Group in charge of recruiting new Board Members (see decision BM-01\_2017\_D-02) is allowed to approach potential Board candidates without prior approval by the FiTI International Board.**

Sven indicated that the FiTI International Secretariat would contact the Working Group in the next weeks to define the modalities of operation.

The Chair thanked all Board Members for the confidence and trust given to the Working Group reflected in this flexible and pragmatic approach and closed this agenda point as no additional comments were made.

#### **5. Establishment of a Working Group for selection of a new FiTI Chair**

Peter EIGEN reemphasized that he will chair the FiTI International Board for approx. 12 more months, until summer 2018.

In order to ensure a successful transition to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Chair, Peter proposed to establish a Working Group from within the FiTI International Board to identify suitable candidates, propose a transition schedule and selection procedures. The Working Group is meant to facilitate the work of the FiTI International Board by making non-binding recommendations to the FiTI International Board. The Chair proposed that the Working Group should be composed of one representative from each stakeholder group. This Working Group will be operationally supported by the FiTI International Secretariat.

#### **Decision [BM-01 2017 D-04]:**

**The FiTI International Board agreed to establish a dedicated Working Group to identify and approach potential successors of the current Chair of the Board.**

**The following Board Members volunteered to participate in the Working Group: Gaoussou GUEYE (Business), Philippe MICHAUD (Countries). In addition, it was suggested by the Chair to include Alfred SCHUMM (Civil Society). The candidates were approved by the Board.**

The Chair thanked all Board members and asked the FiTI International Secretariat to clarify with Alfred SCHUMM on whether he would accept the nomination.

Sven BIERMANN indicated that the FiTI International Secretariat would contact the Working Group in the next weeks to define the modalities of operation.



## 6. Determination of Board meetings for 2017

The Chair proposed to conduct two additional Board meetings in 2017. The Chair suggested to hold the second meeting again via conference call and the third meeting as the first on-site meeting.

The following options were proposed:

Board meeting	Type of meeting	Options for dates
2 <sup>nd</sup> International Board meeting	Conference Call (1,5 hours)	25 September 2017, Noon (GMT)  <u>or</u> 27 September 2017, Noon (GMT)
3 <sup>rd</sup> International Board meeting	On-site meeting (1,5 days)	23/24 November 2017 (around World Fisheries Day), Conakry/Guinea <sup>6</sup>  <u>or</u> 6/7 November 2017, Berlin/ Germany

### Decision [BM-01 2017 D-05]:

**The FiTI International Board agreed to hold the 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting in September via a global conference call. Preferences were indicated for 25 September. The FiTI International Secretariat will confirm this date within the next weeks.**

**The Board agreed to hold the 3<sup>rd</sup> Meeting as an on-site meeting, ideally in an African country.**

In terms of next steps for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Board Meeting, Sven BIERMANN stated that the FiTI International Secretariat has to wait until the CAOPA determines the final meeting location (either Guinea or Seychelles) before proposing the meeting location for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Board meeting. Sven added that the FiTI International Secretariat will start looking for funding for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Board meeting to finance on-site organization as well as travel costs for Board members from civil society and small-scale fisheries.

<sup>6</sup> It is currently planned that the CAOPA organises its annual meeting commemorating the World Fisheries Day on the days preceding November 21<sup>st</sup> in Guinea or in the Seychelles. It will consist in 2/3 days of workshop/seminar about the implementation, at national level, of the FAO guidelines on small scale fisheries, in an evolving context (particularly in the context of 'Blue growth', announced as the ultimate objective for oceans use by an increasing number of governments).

In addition to Board Meetings, the Chair precised that decisions can also be made by Board Circulars. The Circulars would be prepared by the FiTI International Secretariat on behalf of the Chair and sent to all Board Members for decision.

## 7. Closing

The Chair thanked the Members of the Board for their participation in the 1<sup>st</sup> meeting of the FiTI International Board. The Chair also reiterated its gratitude to the Islamic Republic of Mauritania as well as the Republic of Guinea for supporting the conceptual phase of the FiTI, which has enabled the initiative to start its implementation phase.

## **1<sup>st</sup> International Board Meeting ended**

## APPENDIX I: Action items

Pending actions		ID
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Contact Transparencia Mexicana regarding promoting FiTI in Mexico</b></li></ul>	Peter EIGEN	BM-01_2017_AI-01
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Confirm Alfred SCHUMM as member of the Working Group for selection of new FiTI Chair</b></li></ul>	FiTI International Secretariat	BM-01_2017_AI-02
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Fix date of 2<sup>nd</sup> FiTI International Board meeting</b></li></ul>	FiTI International Secretariat	BM-01_2017_AI-03
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Propose date and location and identify funding options for the 3<sup>rd</sup> FiTI International Board Meeting</b></li></ul>	FiTI International Secretariat	BM-01_2017_AI-04

## APPENDIX II: List of Participants

### Chair

**Peter EIGEN**

### Stakeholder Group of Countries

**Gunilla TEGELSKÄR GREIG**

**Philippe MICHAUD**

Excused:

Mas Achmad SANTOSA

Abass SYLLA

### Stakeholder Group of Business

**Alexander BIRYUKOV**

**Gaoussou GUEYE**

**Martin HADIWINATA**

### Stakeholder Group of Civil Society

**Barthélémy Jean Auguste BATIENO** (Alternate for María José CORNAX)

**Sebastián LOSADA**

**Francisco MARI**

**Nedwa NECH**

**Eduardo ROLÓN**

Excused:

María José CORNAX

Alfred SCHUMM

## Observer

None

## Guests

**Mohamed Salem NANY**, Ministry of Economy and Finance, Islamic Republic of Mauritania

## FiTI International Secretariat

**Sven BIERMANN**

**Andréa DURIGHELLO**

**Sebastian WEGNER**

## APPENDIX III: Initial Agenda

Agenda item	Type <sup>7</sup>	Time (GMT)
1. Welcome and Administration	ⓘ / ☑	Noon – 12.15 p.m.
2. Report from the FiTI International Secretariat	ⓘ	12.15 – 12.30 p.m.
3. Adoption of the Terms of Reference for the FiTI International Board	☑	12.30 – 12.50 p.m.
4. Approach to fill vacant International Board Member seats	☑	12.50 – 13.05 p.m.
5. Establishment of a Working Group for selection of a new FiTI Chair	☑	13.05 – 13.15 p.m.
6. Determination of Board meetings for 2017	☑	13.15 – 13.25 p.m.
7. Closing	ⓘ	13.25 – 13.30 p.m.

<sup>7</sup> ⓘ Agenda item is primarily for information; ☑ Agenda item requires decision