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FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

OFFICE OF THE HONOURABLE MINISTER OF STATE
FEDERAL MINISTRY OF
AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

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Professor Peter Eigen

Chairman

FiTI International Board

FiTI International Secretariat

c/o Humboldt Viadrina Government Platform gGmbH
Berlin - Germany

LETTER OF INTENT FOR NIGERIA TO IMPLEMENT FiTI

My attention was drawn by Chief Olusegun Obasanjo, GCFR in a letter dated January 15, 2018 on the issue of Nigeria's membership of Fisheries Transparency Initiative (FiTI). Consequently, a discussion was also held with Professors Peter Okebukola and Gbolagade Ayoola. Following therefrom, I wish to express the intention of Nigeria to apply for the membership of the Fisheries Transparency Initiative (FiTI) in due course. In the regard, the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (FMARD) will soon engage the Olusegun Obasanjo Presidential Library for further information on the established protocol to formally apply for membership after due approval by the President and Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, Mohammedu Buhari, GCFR.

2. The initial expression of intent, which is non-committal is premised on the information presently available on the potential benefits of FiTI to Nigeria, as revealed in the documents provided and discussions held on the subject matter, as follows:

- The creation of FiTI is rooted in the Conference of Heads of State and Government of coastal countries held in Mauritania in February 2016, which discussed the complex challenges being faced by such countries and their resolution to increase transparency and participation in fisheries governance for a better and more sustainable management of marine fisheries resources, which include a coastline of 853km length bordering Nigeria in the south.
- The concept of FiTI fits well into the extant policy document under implementation in Nigeria, the Economic Recovery and Growth Plan (2017 – 2020) (ERGP) of the present administration, which is anchored on good and effective governance of the economy and society including “Fighting Corruption and unethical behaviour in the public and private sectors and enhancing transparency in the use of public resources”.

3. In the light of the foregoing, and as stipulated in the Guideline Note, I like to express the intention of Nigeria to sign up in future as a country intending to implement the FiTI, in order to improve transparency in the marine fisheries sector.

4. Please, accept the assurances of my highest regards.



Senator Heineken Lokpobiri, Ph.D
Honourable Minister of State