



Fisheries
Transparency
Initiative

6th meeting of the FiTI International Board

29 April 2019, Conference Call

Meeting Minutes

ID: BM-06_2019_MM

Provided by: FiTI International Secretariat

Date: 27.05.2019

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Time	13.00 - 14.30 (Berlin time)
Venue	Conference Call
Hosted by	-
Input(s)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Preparatory Paper for 4th International Board (EN/FR) [ID: FiTI_BM-06_2019_PP] - Draft Legal Opinion (dated 19 April 2019), prepared by Ms. Manuella M. Parmantier, Attorney-at-Law & Barrister, Seychelles (only EN)

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 6th meeting of the Board.

Apologies were noted from Francisco LEOTTE (Business Stakeholder Group) and Francisco MARI (Civil Society Stakeholder Group). No proxies were assigned.

After all members joined the call, the Chair identified that a Quorum was not reached¹, as not enough Members of the Board attended the call.

Current total size of Board:	2/3 of total Board:		Actual attendance:	At least two Board Members/stakeholder group
15	10		9	Yes

The Chair recommended to the attending members that provisional decisions should be made during this call and that the International Secretariat will seek to obtain approval from at least one non-attending member after the call. The Board agreed to this procedure.

After the call, the International Secretariat obtained approval for all decisions from Mr. Francisco Leotte (Business Stakeholder Group). Therefore, all decisions made during the call are binding.

The Board also agreed on the Agenda.

The Chair asked Sven BIERMANN, Director of the FiTI International Secretariat, to present the status of action items identified at the previous meeting. Sven proposed that due to limited time, only a few of the items will be presented and that a comprehensive overview for all items will be given in the meeting minutes. This approach was approved.

[BM-03_2018_AI-06] Discuss approaches for engaging with donors regarding a “call for FiTI funding”: The FiTI International Secretariat still has not received any feedback from the Civil Society Stakeholder Group. This item therefore remains open until the next Board meeting and the Civil Society representatives are kindly asked to send any input to the Secretariat. Otherwise, this item has to be closed.

¹ “At least two-thirds of the total number of Board Members, with at least two Board Members from each constituency, establish a quorum. “Terms of Reference of the FiTI International Board, para. 3

[BM-04_2018_AI-01] Finalise concept note for future collaboration with Global Sustainable Seafood Initiative (GSSI): A concept note was sent to GSSI already last year, but no response was received from GSSI. The International Secretariat will contact GSSI again. This item therefore remains open until the next Board meeting.

[BM-05_2018_AI-01] Seek to obtain additional information about the non-attendance of Mas Achmad Santosa: Sven stated that no information was received from the FiTI International Board. This action item is therefore closed.

[BM-05_2018_AI-02] Inform Mas Achmad Santosa as well as the Indonesian Government about the possible suspension decision by the FiTI International Board: Sven stated that a letter has been sent by the Chair to Mr. Santosa on 29 March 2019, informing him about the suspension of his status as a member of the International Board due to non-compliance with key responsibilities as a Board Member, in particular regularly attending Board meetings. This action item was therefore closed.

Furthermore, Sven informed that the Chair and the International Secretariat are still in contact with stakeholders in Indonesia to discuss the best way forward with the Indonesian government, also in light of the recent elections. This action item remains open until the next Board meeting.

[BM-05_2018_AI-03] Inform Maimouna Ahmed Salem YAHDHIH as well as Mamadou GOUDIABY of their acceptance as new Board Members: A letter has been sent to Mr. GOUDIABY by the FiTI Chair on 17 December 2018.

An email from Miss YAHDHIH was received by the International Secretariat on 20 December 2018, informing that she no longer serves as the Director General in the Ministry of Economy and Finance in Mauritania and that an official nomination letter for her successor will be sent to the Chair soon. This letter has not been received yet. Mr. Mohamed Salem NANY, the new Director General of Public Investment and Economic Cooperation is currently serving as her interim successor. This action item was therefore closed; the Secretariat will follow up separately with the Government of Mauritania.

[BM-05_2018_AI-04] Provide dedicated sub-website to make financial contributions publicly available (per year): The sub-website is still in progress. Therefore, this action item remains open.

[BM-05_2018_AI-05] Finalise the Guidance Note for Report Compiler: This action item has been completed (see below) and was therefore closed.

[BM-05_2018_AI-06] Contact potential candidates for new FiTI Chair: The FiTI Chair informed the Board that he is already reaching out to a number of potential candidates, based primarily on the list established during the last Board Meeting. So far, no single candidate has been determined. Therefore, this action item will remain open.

[BM-05_2018_AI-07] Propose a selection process for the new Chair by the next meeting: Sven informed the Board that due to the inactiveness of the current Working Group, the Chair and the

International Secretariat have been advancing the selection process (see also above). This action item was therefore closed.

On this item, the Chair raised the matter whether the Board sees any potential Conflict of Interests of his personal involvement in finding a suitable successor for him. The Board reached the following decision by consensus:

Decision [BM-06_2019_D-01]:

The Board approved that the FiTI Chair should be involved in the selection process and in finding a suitable candidate as his successor.

[BM-05_2018_AI-08] Provide a detailed funding requirement document for the FiTI International Secretariat 2019-2021 (to be distributed to potential donors): This action item has been completed and was therefore closed.

[BM-05_2018_AI-09] Commission a legal opinion for the institutionalisation of the FiTI under Seychelles law, comparing a Members' Association against a Corporate Body: This action item has been completed (see below) and was therefore closed.

[BM-05_2018_AI-10] Inform the government of Mauritania about its acceptance as an official FiTI Candidate country: A letter was sent by the Chair to H.E. EL Moctar OULD DJAY, Minister of Economy and Finance on 19 December 2018. The letter has also been made publicly available on the FiTI Website². Therefore, this action item has been completed and was closed.

[BM-05_2018_AI-11] Update the Guidance Note #01 that all countries must submit their Candidate Application at least one week before a FiTI International Board meeting: The update is still in progress. Therefore, this action item remains open.

[BM-05_2018_AI-12] Provide further elaborations on the concept of a FiTI Regional Support Hubs: This update is still in progress. Therefore, this action item remains open.

[BM-05_2018_AI-13] Implement outreach commitments: The International Secretariat has received feedback only from a limited number of Board Members. The status of outreach commitments will be addressed during the next Board meeting. This action item remains open.

[BM-05_2018_AI-14] Prepare the 2019 Workplan for the FiTI International Secretariat: Due to the current funding situation, no comprehensive workplan will be determined. Instead, based on the key requirements set by the FiTI International Board during its 5th meeting, the International Secretariat determines individual funding agreements with donors. This action item is therefore closed.

² <http://fisheriestransparency.org/fiti-international-board>

2. Update on current funding situation

The Chair invited the International Secretariat and Philippe MICHAUD to provide an update on the current funding situation.

- **Support by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)**

Sven informed the Board that the 2018 grant by the BMZ (total of 123.743 EUR) was extended for two additional months into 2019 (January and February), based on a no-cost extension. The funding of this grant has now been used and the grant is closed. The required donor reports have been submitted.

The contractual agreement for the 2019 grant by the BMZ (total of 124.135 EUR) was finalised and covers 6 months (April to September 2019). This grant agreement covers the following 5 work packages:

- Implementation support for & Awareness raising in West African countries
- Implementation support for & Awareness raising in Indonesia
- Design and implementation of organizational and administrative structures for the International Secretariat in the Seychelles
- Involvement of other actors
- Provision of a guidance note for country validations

Sven reminded the Board that from October 2019 onwards, no funding is yet available for the activities of the FiTI International Secretariat.

- **Minimum annual financial contributions from countries**

Sven informed the Board that correspondences regarding minimum annual financial contributions, which are mandatory as of 2019, had been sent to most countries. The current situation is as follows:

Country	Mandatory contribution	Request sent on:	Status
Guinea	10.000 USD	9 April 2019	Payment open
Indonesia	20.000 USD	Pending, requires clarification	
Mauritania	20.000 USD	9 April 2019	Payment open
Nigeria	20.000 USD	Pending, requires government contact	

São Tomé and Príncipe	10.000 USD	Pending, requires government contact	
Senegal	10.000 USD	Pending, waiting for new Minister	
Seychelles	25.000 USD	27 March 2019	Payment received (19 April 2019)

- **Activities of the new FiTI Senior Advisor, Mr. Fawzi Rihane**

Peter emphasised that in order to support the allocation of funding for the International Secretariat in the Seychelles, the Secretariat was able to obtain the services of a well-trusted advisor: Mr. Fawzi RIHANE. Fawzi is a dual national of Germany and Tunisia, has a long and vast international experience working with multilateral development institutions including the World Bank in Washington DC, and more recently with IFAD, a United Nations specialized agency based in Rome. During his professional career, he travelled extensively, working on development issues and playing a lead role in policy formulation and resource mobilization.

In his brief presentation to the Board, Fawzi informed that over the past three months he represented FiTI at three international meetings: the Governing Council of IFAD (Rome, 12-15 February 2019); the Islamic Development Bank's Board of Governors Annual Meetings (2-7 April 2019 in Marrakech); and the World Bank/IMF Spring Meetings (Washington DC, 9-14 April 2019). Participation at above meetings is at the highest levels of governments, including ministers of finance, agriculture, fisheries or development cooperation. He indicated that these meetings offered an opportunity to engage dialogue and interact with select senior government officials, and officials from multilateral development agencies to apprise them about FiTI's role, discuss ways of engaging with coastal countries in support of FiTI's mandate as well as broach funding opportunities for the work of FiTI's International Secretariat. Meetings were also held with the World Bank and IMF senior staff on the possibility of integrating the FiTI Standard as part of their policy dialogue with member states. He clarified that follow up work is being conducted with officials met and that a more targeted approach will be pursued particularly in relation to FiTI's resource needs. He concluded that more details will be included in his forthcoming back-to-office report.

- **Requests by the Government of Seychelles to the governments of Norway and Qatar as well as to the World Bank's new Multi-Donor Trust Fund PROBLUE**

Philippe MICHAUD informed the Board that discussions have been intensified with the World Bank regarding potential funding contributions to the International Secretariat from the new Multi-Donor Trust Fund PROBLUE. This included a recent World Bank mission to the Seychelles and discussions with relevant stakeholders, including the Ministry of Finance and Ministry of Foreign Affairs. He clarified further that funding, if granted, cannot be expected until 2020 and that any provided funding can only be used to cover material costs. Therefore,

personnel costs from the staff employed by the FiTI International Secretariat will not be covered through this fund.

Philippe mentioned further that official requests for support have been sent to the governments of Norway and Qatar and that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs will follow up on these requests soon.

Furthermore, Philippe outlined that a brief opening celebration for the International Secretariat is currently scheduled for end of May 2019, which will also be helpful to attract donor interest.

3. Report from the FiTI International Secretariat

The Chair invited the FiTI International Secretariat to provide a brief update of its concluded and planned activities.

- **Appointment of new Coordinator for West Africa, Mr. Mansor NDOUR**

Sven informed the International Board that immediately after Andréa DURIGHELLO's notice of termination as West Africa Regional Coordinator, the International Secretariat started with the public recruitment process, which included sending a message to the International Board, advertising the position on the website³, on social media and through its networks. Sven reminded the Board that the main responsibility of the Regional Coordinator for West Africa continues to be supporting countries in implementing the requirements of the FiTI Standard (e.g., Guinea, Mauritania, Nigeria, Sao Tomé e Príncipe, Senegal), in close cooperation with the designated national governmental focal points. Independent of his/her physical location, the Regional Coordinator will act as a neutral facilitator, providing guidance on the interpretation of the FiTI requirements to national stakeholders upon request. Furthermore, Sven emphasised that the appointment of a West Africa Coordinator does not come with institutional arrangements, i.e. there is no official FiTI office in West Africa; this position is home-based.

The Secretariat received a total of 8 applications (from Senegal, Guinea, and Mauritania). Due to the partly non-realistic salary expectations, the Secretariat conducted two phone interviews and then selected Mr. Mansor NDOUR as Andréa's successor.

Mansor briefly introduced himself to the Board and highlighted, inter alia, his past work experience as the head of the registration and fishing license office in the Ministry of Fisheries in Senegal. Mansor is based in Dakar, Senegal. The Board welcomed Mansor to the Secretariat.

³ <http://fisheriestransparency.org/west-africa-regional-coordinator-for-the-fisheries-transparency-initiative-f-m>

- **Status of new Guidance Note “Compiling FiTI Reports”**

Sven informed the Board that the new Guidance Note on compiling FiTI Reports has been written by FiTI’s Technical Advisor, Dr. André STANDING in collaboration with the International Secretariat, and has already been designed by a graphic designer. The document is currently undergoing a final proofreading before publication by the end of May 2019. Sven reminded the Board that the purpose of this Guidance Note is to support Report Compilers in producing annual reports on behalf of the FiTI National Multi-Stakeholder Group (MSG). Such reports must be compliant with the transparency requirements, the reporting process and describe commitments for progressive improvements in transparency, as set out in the FiTI Standard (section B).

Sven noted that the Secretariat received only limited feedback from the 6 members who volunteered to review the note; only one member provided feedback. Sven therefore asked the Board whether the Guidance Note can be published as planned by the end of May, in order to be available for countries seeking to publish their first FiTI Report, i.e. Mauritania.

The Board reached the following decision by consensus:

Decision [BM-06_2019_D-02]:

The Board approved the publication of the new Guidance Note “Compiling FiTI Reports” by the end of May 2019.

- **Other current activities**

Guidance Note for validation of implementing countries: The Board was informed that under the current grant by the BMZ, a new guidance note for validating countries will be provided. The International Secretariat already prepared Terms of References and selected Mr. Tim BITTIGER as the consultant for this activity. This guidance note will be made publicly available by end of September 2019. It is currently foreseen that this is one of the last guidance notes necessary to complete the overall quality and governance framework for the FiTI.

Tailored information flyers for governments, fishing companies and civil society organisations: In order to support its outreach activities, the International Secretariat is currently working on the provision of three stakeholder-specific information flyers to complement the current promotion material (in particular the At a Glance flyers). The Secretariat will contact relevant Board members to obtain their views and feedback on these flyers (approx. July 2019).

FiTI side event at Seafood Global Expo (7 May 2019) by government of Mauritania: Peter informed the Board that the FiTI has been invited by the government of Mauritania to present the status of the global FiTI as well as the implementation progress in Mauritania to participants of the Seafood Global Expo in Brussels. This exhibition is attended by almost

30.000 buyers, suppliers, media and other seafood professionals and provides a great opportunity to showcase implementation progress for the FiTI. The Chair thanked the government of Mauritania for their initiative on this side event.

- **Status of FiTI countries**

Sven noted that due to time limitations, the status of FiTI countries will not be discussed during this meeting. A summary of each of the seven countries (i.e. Guinea, Indonesia, Mauritania, Nigeria, Sao Tomé & Príncipe, Senegal, Seychelles) is provided in Annex IV of this document.

A question was raised by Sebastian LOSADA regarding the status of Mauritania, in particular regarding the recent visit of the International Secretariat to Nouakchott, which did not result in a meeting with the National Multi-Stakeholder Group. Sven outlined that concerns were raised by national stakeholders regarding the selection process and the appointment of the new West Africa Regional Coordinator. Furthermore, there were misconceptions regarding the institutional arrangements for this position. He further stated that these concerns are currently being clarified with the FiTI National Lead and the relevant parties.

4. Legal institutionalisation of the FiTI in the Seychelles

The Chair introduced the core topic of this 6th International Board meeting: determining the most suitable vehicle for establishing a legal entity in the Seychelles for the FiTI.

The importance of creating a legal entity for the FiTI to engage in contractual relationships (with staff, service providers etc.), but also to attract funding from donors was re-emphasised. The latter aspect is of particular importance, as donor organisations continue to state their unwillingness and inability to provide funding to a German-based organisation.

The Chair thanked the International Secretariat for providing background information as part of the Preparatory Document, allowing the Board to discuss advantages, disadvantages and practical requirements of such a legal vehicle.

Sven stated that as the FiTI must be created as a not-for-profit organisation (to be able to receive donor funding), there are only two main legal vehicles available under Seychellois law: a *Members' Association* or a *Statutory Body through its own Government Act*.

Based on the Board's approval during its last meeting in December 2018 (Decision ID: BM-05_2018_D-05), the International Secretariat has contacted a number of lawyers and law firms in the Seychelles and eventually commissioned a legal opinion from Ms. Manuella M. Parmantier, Attorney-at-Law & Barrister; Victoria, Seychelles.

The legal opinion compares the legal, financial, administrative and governance related implication of creating either an Association or a Statutory Body under the laws of the Republic of Seychelles for the benefit of the Fisheries Transparency Initiative (FiTI).

It shows that there are a number of similarities in the requirements to setup and operate the FiTI either as an Association or as a Statutory Body, in particular as the creation of a Statutory Body through its own Act offers high flexibilities to tailor the necessary provisions. Most importantly, both legal vehicles would allow the continuation of the current setup of the FiTI, that is an operative International Secretariat, overseen by a multi-stakeholder International Board.

However, the legal opinion summaries also that the legal framework for an Association in the Seychelles would be more easily and expeditiously to set up, and the cost implications would also be substantially less than the Statutory Body.

- In order to create an *Association* under the current legal system in the Republic of Seychelles, only 2 or more people are needed, with a common object which shall not be for pecuniary gain to themselves and which shall not be contrary to the law, morality and public policy. Furthermore, no financial contributions need to be made by the members of the association.
- The legislative power of the Seychelles is vested in the National Assembly, which has the power to pass bills. In order for the FiTI to be legally established as a *Statutory Body*, such a bill must be drafted, stating the object and function of FiTI, together with a sponsoring ministry. The right to introduce a bill in the National Assembly can be exercised by the Vice-President or a Minister. Once the bill is brought into the National Assembly and priority is determined, it has to go through a process of a first reading, second reading, which goes through the debating process, the committal of the bill and third reading, where the bill will then be deemed to be passed. Any (future) attempts to make amendments to a bill, will have to go through a similar process, depending largely on Government backing.

In order to further advance the process of transitioning the International Secretariat from Berlin to Victoria and to provide a clear framework for future donors, the Board discussed the best legal option for the FiTI. The Chair emphasised that based on his vast experience, a voluntary initiative striving to be successful needs the authority and legitimisation of a broad members' base and opted therefore in favour of an association for the FiTI. Sven mentioned further that in order to attract donor support for the FiTI, any non-profit legal vehicle that does not appear to be directly under the (potential) influence of a government might be seen as more favourable.

Sven outlined further that today's decision for the legal vehicle is only the first of a two-stage process. After this decision has been taken by the Board, the International Secretariat will determine suitable options for structuring the internal governance procedures for the chosen legal vehicle. These options will be presented to the Board at the next International Board meeting. Only when both stages are completed will the International Secretariat start the actual process of establishing and registering the legal entity.

After brief discussions, the Board reached the following decision by consensus:

Decision [BM-06_2019_D-03]:

The Board agreed that a legal entity for the FiTI should be created in form of an Association under the legal system in the Republic of Seychelles.

5. Date and mode of the 7th International Board meeting

Sven proposed to the Board that the next meeting of the FiTI International Board should focus on the structuring of the internal governance procedures for the FiTI Association. The Chair asked the FiTI International Secretariat to provide relevant background information on this topic as part of the regular preparatory document.

The Chair proposed that the 7th meeting of the FiTI International Board will be conducted as a global conference call either on:

- Monday, 8 July 2019 (1 p.m. Berlin time), or
- Monday, 15 July 2019 (1 p.m. Berlin time)

The Board reached the following decision by consensus:

Decision [BM-06_2019_D-04]:

The Board agreed to conduct the 7th International Board meeting as a 2-hour conference call on Monday, 8 July 2019 (1 p.m. Berlin time). The key focus of this meeting will be the FiTI's governance structure for the FiTI Association.

6. Closing

The Chair thanked the Members of the Board for their participation in the 6th meeting and expressed his satisfaction for the progress achieved during the meeting.

6th International Board Meeting ended

APPENDIX I: Action items

ID	Pending actions	Responsibility
BM-03_2018_AI-06	Discuss approaches for engaging with donors regarding a “call for FiTI funding”	Board Members of Civil Society group
BM-04_2018_AI-01	Finalise concept note for future collaboration with Global Sustainable Seafood Initiative (GSSI)	FiTI International Secretariat
BM-05_2018_AI-04	Provide dedicated sub-website to make financial contributions publicly available (per year)	FiTI International Secretariat
BM-05_2018_AI-06	Contact potential candidates for new FiTI Chair	FiTI Chair, FiTI International Secretariat
BM-05_2018_AI-11	Update the Guidance Note #01 that all countries must submit their Candidate Application at least one week before a FiTI International Board meeting	FiTI International Secretariat
BM-05_2018_AI-12	Provide further elaborations on the concept of a FiTI Regional Support Hubs	FiTI International Secretariat
BM-05_2018_AI-13	Implement outreach commitments	All FiTI International Board Members

APPENDIX II: List of Participants

Chair

Peter EIGEN

Stakeholder Group of Countries

Ylva MATTSSON

Philippe MICHAUD

Not excused:

Mamadou GOUDIABY

Mohamed Salem NANY

Mas Achmad SANTOSA

Stakeholder Group of Business

Alexander BIRYUKOV

Ricardo BERNALES

Excused:

Francisco LEOTTE

Not excused:

Gaoussou GUEYE

Marthin HADIWINATA

Stakeholder Group of Civil Society

María José CORNAX

Sebastián LOSADA

Nedwa NECH

Eduardo ROLÓN

Alfred SCHUMM

Excused:

Francisco MARI

Observers

None

FiTI International Secretariat

Sven BIERMANN

Mansor NDOUR

Fawzi RIHANE

APPENDIX III: Initial Agenda

Agenda item	Type ⁴	Time (Germany)
1. Welcome and Administration	① / ☑	1.00 – 1.10 p.m.
2. Update on current funding situation	①	1.10 – 1.30 p.m.
3. Report from the FiTI International Secretariat	①	1.30 – 1.50 p.m.
4. Legal institutionalisation of the FiTI in the Seychelles	☑	1.50 – 2.20 p.m.
5. Date and mode of the 7th International Board meeting	①	2.20 – 2.25 p.m.
6. Closing	①	2.25 – 2.30 p.m.

⁴ ① Agenda item is primarily for information; ☑ Agenda item requires decision

Annex IV: Update on country status

Guinea

Progress in Guinea is still limited, despite stakeholder interests, by the still pending approval of a FiTI degree by the president of Guinea, H.E. Alpha Conde. Various attempts by the FiTI Chair to establish direct contact with the president have not been successful yet. Additional options are currently explored.

Indonesia

There is no update on the current situation regarding FiTI in Indonesia. Several attempts to reach out to relevant government officials have been unsuccessful. It is therefore still unclear whether the current slow progress is caused by the upcoming presidential election or by other factors.

A letter to Board Member Mas Achmad Santosa, informing him of his suspension as a member of the International Board due to non-compliance with key responsibilities, in particular regularly attending Board meetings [Decision ID BM-05_2018_D-01] was sent end of March 2019.

Mauritania

Mauritania is currently in the preparation for providing its first FiTI Report, due by the end of the year, based on 2018 data. The German development organisation GIZ continues to support the national FiTI implementation process, including financial and organizational support for the upcoming reporting process. However, the GIZ's willingness to support is linked to setting up tangible institutional responsibilities for the FiTI in Mauritania, in particular regarding the National Secretariat.

A recent visit by the FiTI International Secretariat to Mauritania (beginning of April) allowed meetings with individual stakeholders, but did not result in a meeting with the National Multi-Stakeholder Group.

Nigeria

A recent visit by the FiTI Chair to Nigeria (primary purpose was not FiTI-related) did not result in any new developments regarding the implementation of FiTI in Nigeria. The recent presidential elections enhanced the difficulties to discuss the current status and next steps with key government officials. The International Secretariat will continue its engagement with stakeholders in Nigeria, once the influence of the recent election on government affairs has been reduced.

Sao Tomé & Príncipe

Due the government changes, a new Finance Minister has been appointed and Fisheries is no longer with the Ministry of Finance (now Ministry of Planning, Finance and Blue Economy). Fisheries is now with in the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Rural Development. The International Secretariat is still waiting for the new government's availability for a discussion and turning their recent commitment towards the FiTI into concrete actions.

Senegal

In order to raise the awareness of the FiTI in Senegal and to present a roadmap for implementation by end of 2019, a meeting was organized at the Ministry of Fisheries and Maritime Economy (MPEM) and chaired by Dr. Mamadou Goudiaby, Director of Maritime Fisheries (DPM) and recently appointed member of the FiTI International Board. Several representatives of MPEM, fisher's organizations as well as civil society were mobilised for the meeting (20 participants in total).

The main purpose was to understand the goals and missions of the FiTI for all relevant stakeholders in Senegal, in order to prepare the country properly for its candidate application to the International Board. The meeting concluded on a strong commitment from all participants to contribute adequately and be involved in a successful application of Senegal to the International Board.

Seychelles

A county mission by the FiTI International Secretariat is currently scheduled for end of May in order to discuss the currents status of the transition of the International Secretariat to Victoria, as well as support of the National Multi-Stakeholder Group in completing the country's Candidate application. It is currently expected that the application will be submitted to the FiTI International Board no later than June/July 2019.