



Fisheries
Transparency
Initiative

FiTI Board Circular

Board Circular No. 3

ID: BC-03_2020

Requested by: FiTI Chair

Submitted by: FiTI International Secretariat

Submitted on: 10 March 2020

Decided on: 24 March 2020

Preamble

According to Article 15 of the constitution of the Fisheries Transparency Initiative (FiTI), in effect since 24 January 2020, *“the FiTI International Board shall make decisions outside Board Meetings, especially for routine decisions that need to be passed between Board Meetings, based on Board Circulars.”*

Purpose of this Circular

The purpose of this Circular is to decide whether to grant the Republic of Seychelles the official status of a FiTI Candidate country, based on the submitted application documents (received on 10 March 2020).

Decision required: Candidate application of Seychelles

In accordance with Section A of the FiTI Standard, countries intending to implement the FiTI must fulfil six initial requirements (sign-up steps). Once a country has completed these requirements and wishes to be recognised as a FiTI Candidate country, the government must submit a FiTI Candidate application to the FiTI International Board. Such an application must be based on the official template provided by the FiTI International Secretariat in June 2018. If the application is approved by the Board, the country is considered an FiTI Candidate country.

On behalf of His Excellence Vincent Meriton, Vice President of the Seychelles, Mr. Philippe Michaud, FiTI National Lead of the Seychelles submitted the official application documents to the FiTI International Secretariat on 10 March 2020. These documents include:

- (1) Official application letter from Vice President Meriton to Dr. Valeria Merino, Chair of the FiTI International Board;
- (2) completed application document, approved by the National Multi-Stakeholder Group;
- (3) Terms of Reference for the National Multi-Stakeholder Group, approved by the National Multi-Stakeholder Group; and
- (4) Workplan 2019-2020, approved by the National Multi-Stakeholder Group.

It should be noted that the FiTI International Secretariat has collaborated intensively with the FiTI National Lead and members of the National Secretariat in the Seychelles. The International Secretariat also participated in two meetings of the National Multi-Stakeholder Group in the Seychelles.

Based on the International Secretariat’s initial review, the application documents are in formal compliance with the FiTI Standard, Section A, which can be summarised as follows:

FiTI Requirement		Status	Remarks
Public commitment	A.1	☑	Official endorsement of FiTI by Cabinet made on 7 April 2017
Enabling Environment for Stakeholder Participation	A.2	☑	See application for more information
FiTI Lead Ministry	A.3	☑	The Department of the Blue Economy, office of the Vice-President
FiTI National Lead		☑	Mr. Philippe Michaud, Special Advisor to the Vice-President
FiTI National Multi-Stakeholder Group	A.4	☑	Total of 12 members: 4x government, 4x business, and 4x civil society; with equal voting rights according to the Terms of Reference
FiTI National Secretariat	A.5	☑	Seychelles Fishing Authority, with support from the Department of the Blue Economy
Workplan	A.6	☑	Covering activities for 2019-2020, including the first FiTI Report

Furthermore, the International Secretariat would like to emphasise three additional aspects for consideration by the FiTI International Board:

- The size of the National Multi-Stakeholder Group was increased from initially 7 organisations to now 12 organisations, due to the high interest among business and civil society stakeholders
- Seychelles included their commitment and milestones for the FiTI implementation process also in their National Action Plan of the Open Government Partnership (OGP) <https://www.opengovpartnership.org/members/seychelles/commitments/SYC0003/>
- According to Section B.2.2 of the FiTI Standard, a “National MSG must publish their first FiTI Report within the subsequent year of becoming a FiTI Candidate country”. However, given

the importance of FiTI for the Seychelles, the government already committed to publish the country's first FiTI Report by October 2020, in case the country is granted the Candidate status. This commitment is also documented in the above-mentioned National Action Plan of the OGP.

The FiTI Chair has now mandated the FiTI International Secretariat to issue this circular and request a decision from the Board.

Decision required_#1: Does the FiTI International Board approve the candidate application of the Republic of Seychelles, submitted on 10 March 2020, and grant it the official status of a FiTI Candidate country in accordance with Section A of the FiTI Standard?

Due date for this Board Circular

Board Members must reply to this Board Circular no later than **Tuesday, 24 March 2020** in writing (via email) and cannot assign their Alternates or a proxy.

Decision making procedures for this Board Circular

In accordance with the constitution of the FiTI, *“decisions through Board Circulars are adopted by qualified majority requiring the support of three quarter of the total number of Board Members and must include the support of at least three Board Members from each stakeholder group. Every member has one vote.”*

The current total number of members in the FiTI International Board is thirteen (13), whereas the constitution foresees only 12 voting Board members. Therefore, the voting power would have to be adjusted. However, Board Member Philippe Michaud is not able to participate in this decision-making process, due to an apparent conflict of interest. Therefore, the total number of Board Members eligible to participate in this Circular is 12 voting members, with each member carrying one vote.

This Board Circular is adopted if at least 8 Board Members support the decision, including 3 members from each stakeholder group.

Results protocol: Approval of Circular

The Board Circular was sent on 10 March 2020 to all Board Members. The following results were recorded:

Name:	Stakeholder Group:	Sent on:	Responded on:	Decision:
Goudiaby, Mamadou	Government	10.03.2020	19.03.2020	Yes
Mattson, Ylva	Government	10.03.2020	13.03.2020	Yes
Michaud, Philippe	Government			
Nany, Mohamed Salem	Government	10.03.2020	24.03.2020	Yes
Biryukov, Alexander	Business	10.03.2020	10.03.2020	Yes
Leotte, Francisco	Business	10.03.2020	16.03.2020	Yes
Gueye, Gaoussou	Business	10.03.2020	13.03.2020	Yes
Hadiwinata, Ahmad Marthin	Business	10.03.2020		
Losada, Sebastian	Civil Society	10.03.2020	24.03.2020	Yes
Mari, Francisco	Civil Society	10.03.2020		
Nech, Nedwa Moctar	Civil Society	10.03.2020	13.03.2020	Yes
Schumm, Alfred	Civil Society	10.03.2020	20.03.3020	Yes
Rolon, Eduardo	Civil Society	10.03.2020	14.03.2020	Yes

Approval of Circular - Rule I: At least 8 responses:

10

Approval of Circular - Rule II: At least 3x 'Yes' from stakeholder group 'Government':

3

At least 3x 'Yes' from stakeholder group 'Business':

3

At least 3x 'Yes' from stakeholder group 'Civil Society':

4

Based on these responses, the following decision has been determined:

Decision [BC-03_2020_D-01]:

The International Board grants the Republic of Seychelles the official status of a FiTI Candidate country, based on the submitted application documents (received on 10 March 2020).