



Dr. Valeria Merino

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[Fisheries Transparency Initiative \(FiTI\), Providence/Seychelles](#)

Office of the Vice President, Republic of Seychelles

H.E. Vincent Meriton, Vice President
State House
Victoria, Seychelles

3 April 2020

Candidate application of Seychelles to the Fisheries Transparency Initiative (FiTI)

Your Excellency,

Vice President Meriton,

On 10 March 2020, we received the official Candidate Application of Seychelles to the Fisheries Transparency Initiative (FiTI). This marked an important milestone for the FiTI, to which Seychelles has shown support from the beginning.

The application was evaluated by the International Board through a Board Circular, and I am very pleased to announce that the Board approved this application, making the Seychelles the second country to be granted the status of a **FiTI Candidate** country.

On behalf of the Board, I wish to extend my congratulations to you and the FiTI National Multi-Stakeholder Group for this significant achievement.

The completion of these sign-up requirements now lays a strong foundation for Seychelles to embark on the next step of the FiTI process: undergo regular assessments on the accessibility and completeness of information in the public domain for all transparency requirements set forth in the FiTI Standard.

Through this, the FiTI will support Seychelles national authorities to develop and strengthen their own systems for collating and publishing information online in a complete and accessible manner. In this regard, I am also very pleased with the ongoing leadership demonstrated by your government, most notably the commitment to publish the first FiTI Report already by October 2020 this year (containing information from 2019).



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I also wish to thank you for your foresight in linking the efforts of FiTI with the wider activities of the Open Government Partnership. We already see positive indications that other countries will follow the Seychelles example.

Your Excellency, I would have wished to convey my congratulations to you and the stakeholders of Seychelles in person, but the current travel restrictions prevent me from doing so. Yet, I remain hopeful to visit the beautiful island of Seychelles sometime in 2020 and to further explore how the FiTI can make a positive impact on people's life.

I wish you a lot of success for the continuation of the process.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Valeria Merino" in a cursive script. The signature is written over a horizontal line that extends to the right.

Dr. Valeria Merino
Chair of the FiTI International Board