



Fisheries
Transparency
Initiative

FiTI Board Circular

Board Circular No. 2

ID: BC-02_2019

Requested by: FiTI Chair
Submitted by: FiTI International Secretariat
Submitted on: 15.10.2019
Decided on: 25.10.2019

Preamble

According to the Terms of Reference of the FiTI International Board, Version 10 July 2017¹, “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.”

Furthermore, „circulars will be submitted to Board members, allowing for sufficient time (at least one week) to respond to the FiTI International Secretariat. Board members must reply to a Board Circular in writing. Each decision stemming from a Board Circular will be recorded by the FiTI International Secretariat in a Circular Protocol, under the supervision of the FiTI Chair. The Circular Protocol will be made publicly available.”

Purpose of this Circular

The purpose of this Circular is to appoint the 2nd FiTI Chair of the FiTI International Board.

Decision required: Appointment of 2nd FiTI Chair

Over the last few months, the Working Group “New FiTI Chair” was tasked with finding a successor of the current FiTI Chair, Peter Eigen. The Working Group was supported by the FiTI International Secretariat and, based on a Board’s decision², also the current Chair.

In addition to finding candidates that are capable of fulfilling the responsibilities of the FiTI Chair, as outlined in §7 (1) of the current Terms of Reference of the FiTI International Board, it was also emphasised that attention must be paid to the new Chair not being biased and that she/he will have enough time to fulfil her/his duties as a Chair.

Based on these criteria and numerous discussions with a number of potential candidates, the current Chair is now proposing **Ms. Valeria Merino** to the FiTI International Board to become his successor.

Ms. Merino, born in Ecuador and currently living in Washington D.C., has devoted the last 20 years of her professional career to achieving system change in areas such as transparency, anti-corruption, democracy and sustainable development. Ms. Merino has experience in leading global teams and working in challenging countries or fields. She is fluent in English and Spanish

¹ http://fisheriestransparency.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/07/FiTI_IB_ToRs_EN_20170623.pdf

² Decision [BM-06_2019_D-01]

and holds LL.M. and J.D. degrees with emphasis on international law, the environment and management of natural resources.

Her Curriculum Vitae (CV) was sent to the members of the FiTI International Board on 9 September 2019. No initial concerns or obstacles regarding her appointment were identified by the International Board.

Afterwards, the following activities were conducted to further vet her interest and capabilities:

- Multiple phone conversations between Ms. Merino and Peter Eigen to discuss roles and responsibilities of the FiTI Chair, as well as the spirit and the principle of the initiative;
- Two video conversations between Ms. Merino and Sven Biermann to discuss operational and administrative parameters, in particular the distribution of responsibilities between the International Board (oversight) and the International Secretariat (execution);
- Three phone conversations between Peter Eigen and senior persons, identified by Ms. Merino as references (e.g. from Ashoka). All confirmed her capability of becoming the new FiTI Chair;
- One phone/video conversation between Taskforce “New FiTI Chair” (Alfred Schumm, Philippe Michaud) and Ms. Merino, resulting in an unanimous recommendation of Ms. Merino as a capable future FiTI Chair and successor to Peter Eigen³.

Ms. Merino would be available to become the new FiTI Chair starting **01 January 2020**. The following terms were agreed with her:

- Her time commitment towards FiTI will be 25-30% of her working time (approx. 1,5 days per week)
- She will be able to travel 8-10 times per year (e.g. for country missions, engaging new stakeholders, meeting donors), subject to the availability of travel funds
- Her annual compensation as FiTI Chair will be USD 50,000 – for 2020, this money will be covered by the Moore Foundation grant (50%) and mandatory country contributions (50%)
- She will continue living in Washington D.C./USA
- She will be appointed for an initial term of 3 years

³ Gaoussou Gueye, third member of the Taskforce, was unable to participate in the call, but approved the recommendation afterwards.

According to the current Terms of Reference, the Chair shall be elected at the FiTI Members' Meeting. However, given the fact that the envisioned FiTI Members' Association is still in the process of being legally registered in the Seychelles and that afterwards, the establishment of a representative global membership base to elect the new Chair will require significant time, the FiTI Chair has now mandated the FiTI International Secretariat to issue this circular and request the following decision from the Board:

Decision required_#1: Should Ms. Valeria Merino be appointed as the 2nd FiTI Chair, starting 01 January 2020, based on the above stated parameters?

The FiTI Chair would also like to take this opportunity to thank the members of the Taskforce "New FiTI Chair" for their work.

In accordance with the Terms of Reference of the FiTI International Board, Board Members are requested to reply briefly in writing (via email) to this Circular no later than **Friday, 25 October 2019** to inform the International Secretariat about their decision.

Results protocol: Approval of Circular

According to the Terms of Reference, the following requirements and procedures for decision-making of Board Circular apply (§6 (5)): *“Under Board Circulars decisions are made by a qualified majority of 12 votes to be cast in favour of the decision, with at least three Board Members from each stakeholder group.”*

The Board Circular was sent on Tuesday, 15 October 2019 to all Board Members. The following results were recorded:

Name:	Stakeholder Group:	Sent on:	Responded on:	Decision:
Goudiaby, Mamadou	Government	15.10.2019		
Mattson, Ylva	Government	15.10.2019	16.10.2019	Yes
Michaud, Philippe	Government	15.10.2019	16.10.2019	Yes
Nany, Mohamed Salem	Government	15.10.2019	25.10.2019	Yes
Biryukov, Alexander	Business	15.10.2019	16.10.2019	Yes
Leotte, Francisco	Business	15.10.2019	16.10.2019	Yes
Gueye, Gaoussou	Business	15.10.2019	16.10.2019	Yes
Hadiwinata, Ahmad Marthin	Business	15.10.2019		
Cornax, María José	Civil Society	15.10.2019	25.10.2019	Yes
Losada, Sebastian	Civil Society	15.10.2019	25.10.2019	Yes
Mari, Francisco	Civil Society	15.10.2019	25.10.2019	Yes
Nech, Nedwa Moctar	Civil Society	15.10.2019	16.10.2019	Yes
Schumm, Alfred	Civil Society	15.10.2019		Yes
Rolon, Eduardo	Civil Society	15.10.2019	24.10.2019	Yes

Approval of Circular - Rule I: At least 12 responses:

12

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':

6

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

Decision [BC-01_2018_D-01]:

The International Board approves the appointment of Ms. Valeria Merino as the 2nd FiTI Chair, for a term of 3 years, starting 01 January 2020.