



Fisheries  
Transparency  
Initiative

# FiTI Board Circular

Board Circular No. 5

**ID: BC-05\_2021**

**Requested by:** FiTI Chair  
**Submitted by:** FiTI International Secretariat  
**Submitted on:** 22.04.2021  
**Decided on:** 29.04.2021

## 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 the FiTI should suspend indefinitely its annual mandatory financial contributions from countries.

## Decision required: Indefinite suspension of annual financial contributions from participating countries

Mandatory, annual financial contributions from participating countries were approved by the FiTI International Board in its 4<sup>th</sup> meeting (12 June 2018) in order to contribute to the overall financing of its administration and governance activities. This related in particular to non-reimbursable administrative costs. Such contributions became effective on 1 January 2019.

In September 2020, the FiTI International Board announced its approval of granting countries a three-year moratorium (2020 – 2022) regarding such annual financial contributions, due to the current global COVID-19 pandemic.<sup>1</sup>

Seven months after this decision, the COVID-19 pandemic continues to spread around the globe (despite positive examples of vaccination progress), triggering renewed waves of infecting millions of citizens and challenging economic activities and recoveries.

Furthermore, regular e-communications with stakeholders, in particular with government representatives of countries signalling interest to join the FiTI, clearly confirmed that this 3-year moratorium was appreciated and needed. It can be clearly stated that conversations with government stakeholders in several countries were only maintained (and are still active today) due to this decision by the FiTI International Board.

However, these ongoing conversations in all of the FiTI’s current target regions<sup>2</sup> show an increasing uncertainty whether such country contributions will be reintroduced at the end of the current moratorium. As the public commitment of a country’s government to the FiTI can be a

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<sup>1</sup> FiTI Board Circular No. 4 [BC-04\_2020\_D-01]

<sup>2</sup> Latin America, West Africa, Western Indian Ocean

lengthy administrative process, often involving and requiring approval from various ministries and public agencies, and certain budgetary processes spanning multiple years, stakeholders are increasingly raising concerns that this moratorium will not be fully applicable to their country by the time a commitment is made. This uncertainty is already impacting progress in at least two target countries.

In addition, the FiTI International Board should note that – given that the moratorium was announced in September 2020 – the FiTI International Secretariat already adjusted its strategies to raise funding for non-reimbursable administration costs in the future, primarily through grant overheads.

The FiTI Chair has now instructed the FiTI International Secretariat to issue this circular and request a decision from the Board in order to provide an unambiguous and reliable message to implementing and targeted countries.

**Decision required\_#1: Does the FiTI International Board approve an indefinite suspension of annual financial contributions from participating countries, starting 1 May 2021?**

### Due date for this Board Circular

Board Members must reply to this Board Circular no later than **Thursday, 29 April 2021** 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.”*

For this Board Circular, there is no apparent conflicts of interest among voting members of the Board. Furthermore, the current total number of voting members in the FiTI International Board is thirteen (13), whereas the constitution foresees only 12 voting Board members. Therefore, the voting powers are adjusted as follows:

| Stakeholder Group    | Number of voting members | Voting power per member |
|----------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|
| <b>Governments</b>   | 4                        | <b>1</b>                |
| <b>Business</b>      | 4                        | <b>1</b>                |
| <b>Civil Society</b> | 5                        | <b>0.8</b>              |

This Board Circular is adopted if at least 9 votes support this decision, including 3 members from each stakeholder group.

### Results protocol: Approval / Denial of Circular

The Board Circular was sent on 22 April 2021 to all Board Members. The following results were recorded:

| Name:                     | Stakeholder Group: | Sent on:   | Responded on: | Decision: | Vote: |
|---------------------------|--------------------|------------|---------------|-----------|-------|
| Goudiaby, Mamadou         | Government         | 22.04.2021 |               |           |       |
| Mattson, Ylva             | Government         | 22.04.2021 | 27.04.2021    | Yes       | 1     |
| Michaud, Philippe         | Government         | 22.04.2021 | 23.04.2021    | Yes       | 1     |
| Nany, Mohamed Salem       | Government         | 22.04.2021 | 29.04.2021    | Yes       | 1     |
| Biryukov, Alexander       | Business           | 22.04.2021 | 22.04.2021    | Yes       | 1     |
| Leotte, Francisco         | Business           | 22.04.2021 | 22.04.2021    | Yes       | 1     |
| Gueye, Gaoussou           | Business           | 22.04.2021 | 27.04.2021    | Yes       | 1     |
| Hadiwinata, Ahmad Marthin | Business           | 22.04.2021 |               |           |       |
| Losada, Sebastian         | Civil Society      | 22.04.2021 |               |           |       |
| Mari, Francisco           | Civil Society      | 22.04.2021 | 29.04.2021    | Yes       | 0.8   |
| Nech, Nedwa Moctar        | Civil Society      | 22.04.2021 | 27.04.2021    | Yes       | 0.8   |
| Schumm, Alfred            | Civil Society      | 22.04.2021 | 29.04.2021    | Yes       | 0.8   |
| Rolon, Eduardo            | Civil Society      | 22.04.2021 | 29.04.2021    | Yes       | 0.8   |

|  |           |                   |
|--|-----------|-------------------|
| Approval of Circular - Rule I: At least 9 votes in favour of supporting the decision:  | <b>10</b> | <b><u>9.2</u></b> |
| Approval of Circular - Rule II: At least 3x 'Yes' from stakeholder group 'Government': | <b>3</b>  |                   |
| At least 3x 'Yes' from stakeholder group 'Business':                                   | <b>3</b>  |                   |
| At least 3x 'Yes' from stakeholder group 'Civil Society':                              | <b>4</b>  |                   |

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

#### Decision [BC-05\_2021\_D-01]:

**The International Board approved an indefinite suspension of annual financial contributions from participating countries, starting 1 May 2021.**