

MINUTES OF 08th MEETING

National Multi-Stakeholder Group Meeting

Fisheries Transparency Initiative

Date: Friday 12th June 2020
Venue: 04th Floor Oliaji Building, Meeting Room.
Time: 10:00 hours

Present:

1. Mr. Philippe Michaud, National FiTI Lead-Blue Economy
2. Mr. Beatty Hoarau, Fishermen Boat Owner's Association (FBOA)
3. Mr. Chrystold Chetty, Transparency Initiatives Seychelles
4. Mr. Sebastian Pillay, Honorable Member of the National Assembly representing the ruling party in the National Assembly
5. Mr. Roy Fonseka representing the main Opposition party
6. Mr. Graham Green- Praslin Fishermen's Association
7. Mr. David Bentley- Sea Harvest
8. Ms. Thessia Kilindo- Youth Representative alternate
9. Mr. Jude Talma, Principal Secretary- Department of Fisheries
10. Mr. James Lesperance JHL Group Ltd

Invitees:

1. Mr. Abel Sorry- National FiTI desk officer.
2. Mr. Sven Biermann (Observer representing the FiTI International Secretariat).

Absent with Apologies:

1. Mr. Grant Heyer, representing the Civil Society Organisations-Citizens Engagement Platform Seychelles (CEPS).
2. Ms. Gabriella Gonthier, Youth Representative
3. Dr. Marie-Thérèse Purvis, representing the Civil Society Organisations-Citizens Engagement Platform Seychelles- (CEPS).
4. Mr. Peter Purvis, representing the Industrial fleet.

Agenda.

1. Confirmation of Minutes of previous meeting and matters arising.
2. Brief by Director FiTI International Secretariat, Mr. Sven Biermann.
3. Consultancy for the Preparation of the Seychelles National Fisheries Transparency Report.
4. FiTI Workshop.

5. Any other Business.

	Items of Discussion.	Action
	<p><u>Welcoming of members.</u></p> <p>Mr. Philippe Michaud - FiTI National Lead chaired the meeting, which started at 10am.</p> <p>He welcomed all members and commented on how he, as the FiTI National Lead, was glad to see an increase in the participation of members compared to previous meetings. He expressed that he wishes to see the same high level of attendance maintained in future FiTI NMSG meetings.</p>	All members.
1.0	<p><u>Confirmation of Minutes of Seventh Meeting.</u></p>	
1.1	All members present endorsed unanimously the Minutes of the 07 th NMSG-FiTI meeting.	National FiTI Lead.
1.2	Mr. Jude Talma pointed out that he was representing the Department of Fisheries and not the government. Therefore, the ‘action’ column in the minutes of meeting, should clearly indicate the responsibility of each person/institution.	
2.0	<p><u>Presentation by Mr. Sven Biermann.</u></p>	
2.1	<p>With the permission of the NMSG members, Mr. Philippe Michaud invited Mr. Sven Biermann, the Director of the FiTI International Secretariat to do his presentation on FiTI.</p> <p>Before beginning his presentation, Mr. Biermann thanked the NMSG members and commented on the very important role they played for the Seychelles in achieving its candidature status. He also explained that the most important and exciting part of the work will now start; that is to make Seychelles FiTI compliant and the input of all NMSG members is vital at this point.</p>	
2.2	Mr. Sven Biermann then made a presentation on the Fisheries Transparency Initiative. He explained to the NMSG members about the different steps involved in the upcoming FiTI reporting process as well as the 12 FiTI transparency	

	<p>requirements. The presentation also emphasized on the importance and purpose of the FiTI report. The presentation is attached to these meeting minutes.</p>	
2.3	<p>Mr. Talma expressed that care should be taken on the amount of information that should be made available while satisfying the FiTI requirements.</p>	National FiTI Lead.
2.4	<p>On the same line, Hon. Sebastian Pillay commented on the fact that Seychelles’ fishery is already heavily subsidized and that the transparency initiatives of the FiTI will mean that all information, about Seychelles’ fishery will be available for prospectors in the industry (especially foreign companies) who may use this information to the disadvantage of Seychelles. The latter gave the example of the European Union fishing vessels that were already overfishing tuna species in our EEZ, which could use the information provided by the FiTI to gain more advantage when exploiting our own resources.</p> <p>Hon. Pillay underlined that his concern is all about the use of information, that may be made available, which can be used against our own fisheries industry. He also stated that we should be careful on the audience that the report will be targeting.</p>	
2.5	<p>Mr. Beatty Hoareau stated that at times very little is known on what is being discussed as regards to subsidies in fisheries at the international level. He expressed the need for Seychelles to have a clear ‘Blueprint’ for investors, especially international companies, coming in the fisheries industry in Seychelles. He also outlined that in general, information on the fisheries sector is often perceived as being “all over the place” and the FiTI is a welcomed initiative to consolidate the access to information.</p>	
2.6	<p>PS. Jude Talma commented on the fact that Seychelles can defend itself through its Fisheries Management Plan which will guide how investment in the Fisheries Industry should be done and this same document can be shared to all the potential investors.</p>	Department of Fisheries.
2.7		

<p>2.8</p>	<p>On this matter, Mr. Chrytold Chetty pointed out that subsidies are not the issue in all of this. He explained that the government and all local stakeholders in the fisheries industry should decide what is the best for the country and look at the situation and try to see the bigger picture.</p>	<p>Transparency Initiatives Seychelles.</p>
<p>2.9</p>	<p>Mr. David Bentley suggested that such reports do not necessarily need to show how wide our resource base is in the fisheries sector. He recommended that a balance should be established, in what should be made totally transparent and accessible to all and what should not.</p>	<p>National FiTI Lead.</p>
	<p>Mr. Biermann responded to these concerns by pointing out that there is a lot of evidence that shows that transparency is a key aspect in managing the sector in a sustainable way. He emphasized that the FiTI does not directly tell countries how fisheries can be improved nor does it set out to highlight mistakes or weaknesses in decision making, or bad fishing practices. Instead, by making fisheries management more transparent and inclusive, the FiTI promotes informed public debates on fisheries policies and supports the long-term contribution of the sector to national economies, as well as the well-being of citizens and businesses that depend on the marine environment. In order to contribute to this, Mr. Biermann informed the NMSG that the International Secretariat is offering to conduct two workshops to promote the Seychelles' first FiTI report; one preparatory workshop to inform the public about the FiTI report, and a launch workshop to discuss the results and the NMSG recommendations for further improvements. Mr. Biermann outlined that currently, a small committee is being set up to help the secretariat organize these two events. He requested the participation of 2-3 members of the NMSG.</p> <p>Mr. Michaud mentioned that he will provide nominees to the secretariat soon.</p>	<p>Director FiTI International Secretariat.</p>

3.0	<u>Consultancy for the Preparation of the Seychelles National Fisheries Transparency Report.</u>	
3.1	Mr. Philippe Michaud explained to the NMSG members that the Blue Economy Department together with the FiTI International has already published applications for the consultancy for the preparation of the Seychelles National FiTI Report. There are eleven (11) individuals who have applied. Mr. Michaud went on to explain that the NMSG has to elect a member to sit on the panel to evaluate the consultants documents and chose the best candidate for the preparation of the report. He also suggested that Mr. Chrystold Chetty be chosen for this task since he already had a considerable amount of experience in transparency matters in the Seychelles.	National FiTI Lead.
3.2	Members of the NMSG agreed and approved Mr. Chetty's candidature to the Evaluation panel.	

<p>4.0</p> <p>4.1</p>	<p><u>Preparation of the FiTI Workshop.</u></p> <p>Mr. Biermann also informed the meeting that FiTI International Secretariat was planning to conduct two workshops to prepare and inform the general public about the upcoming first FiTI report. There was a call by Mr. Biermann for the setting up of a committee, formed by the NMSG members to help prepare the workshops which are planned to take place during the period of September to November 2020.</p>	<p>Director FiTI International Secretariat.</p>
<p>5.0</p> <p>5.1</p> <p>5.2</p> <p>5.3</p>	<p><u>Any Other Business.</u></p> <p>Hon. Sebastian Pillay pointed out that since there is a lot happening in the fisheries industry both locally and internationally; as such, he suggested that the FiTI always stays independent and becomes one of the watchdog organizations for the Seychelles' fisheries.</p> <p>He also suggested that some components of the Seychelles Fishing Authority Bill be brought back to the drawing board for review.</p> <p>Mr. Michaud informed the meeting that as previously agreed, the minutes of meeting will be circulated to the Office of the President for the purpose of information, transparency and accountability.</p>	<p>Member of Leading Party in the National Assembly.</p> <p>National FiTI Lead.</p>

Having no other matters to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 11:20 hours.