

# MINUTES OF 07<sup>th</sup> MEETING

## National Multi-Stakeholder Group Meeting

### Fisheries Transparency Initiative

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**Date:** Thursday 06<sup>th</sup> February 2020  
**Venue:** 04<sup>th</sup> Floor Oliaji Building, Meeting Room.  
**Time:** 10.00 hours

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#### **Present:**

1. Mr. Philippe Michaud, National FiTI coordinator/Blue Economy.
2. Mr. Beatty Hoarau, Fishermen Boat Owner's Association (FBOA)
3. Mr. Cyril Bonnelame (Transparency Initiatives Seychelles).
4. Ms. Chantal Ghislain, Honourable Member of the National Assembly.
5. Mr. Peter Purvis, representing the Industrial Fleet.
6. Mr. Darrel Green- Praslin Fishermen's Association.
7. Mr. David Bentley- Fish Processor.
8. Ms. Thessia Kilindo- (Alternate) Youth Representative.

#### **Invitee:**

1. Mr. Abel Sorry- National FiTI desk officer.

#### **Absent with Apologies:**

1. Mr. Grant Heyer, representing the Civil Society of Seychelles (CEPS).
2. Ms. Gabriela Gonthier, Youth Representative
3. Mr. Jude Talma, Principal Secretary of Fisheries representing the Government.
4. Mr. Roy Fonseka representing the Private Sector/Leader of the Opposition.
5. Dr. Marie-Thérèse Purvis, representing the Civil Society of Seychelles (CEPS).

#### **Agenda.**

1. Confirmation of Minutes of previous meeting and matters arising.
2. FiTI Candidature Application.
3. Any other Business.

	<b>Items of Discussion.</b>	<b>Action by</b>
	<p><b><u>Introduction</u></b></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 his wish that this high level of attendance continues for other FiTI-NMSG meetings.</p>	National FiTI Coordinator.
1.0	<p><b><u>Endorsement of Minutes of sixth Meeting.</u></b></p> <p>All members present endorsed unanimously the Minutes of the 06<sup>th</sup> NMSG-FiTI meeting.</p>	
2.0	<p><b><u>Matters Arising</u></b></p>	
2.1	<p>Mr. Michaud informed the meeting that the Executive Director for the FiTI International Secretariat, Mr. Sven Biermann has arrived in Seychelles and has started work. His office is in the ‘Highway Complex’ building at Providence. There are currently two staff (Administrative Assistant-Ms. Christina Fondamiere and Mrs. Veronica Bristol-Membership Coordinator) who have been recruited for FiTI (who have also started work with the secretariat).</p> <p>Mr. Michaud also informed the meeting that the global FiTI has been registered in Seychelles as an association.</p> <p>Mr. Michaud also again underlined the importance of having alternates to represent or replace members for NMSG-FiTI meetings.</p>	All members
2.2	<p>Mr. Darrel Green informed the meeting that Mr. Richard Bossy will be his alternate on the FiTI-NMSG committee. He will confirm this arrangement in writing.</p>	Mr. Darrel Green

2.3	<p>Mr. Beatty Hoarau also asked if there was a national website that has been set up for informing the general public on FiTI issues, processes and issues in Seychelles. Mr. Michaud explained that the website was in the process of being set up. However, a lot of general information about the FiTI can be found on the FiTI official website.</p>	<p>Department BE &amp; SFA</p>
2.4	<p>Mr. Darrel Green observed that certain government officials are not present at this meeting. He wanted to know how interested and committed government was in embracing and evolving FiTI in Seychelles. In addition, Mr. Bonnelame gave the example that the last SFA annual report, came out in 2014 and none has been published since. Mr. Michaud pointed out that the President has himself committed to make FiTI work for Seychelles and once Seychelles becomes FiTI compliant, this would compel certain institutions and government bodies to become more accountable.</p>	<p>BE Dept., Dept. Fisheries &amp; SFA</p>
2.5	<p>Certain members expressed their concern that government had not clearly stated that it would no longer be involved in private investments as per what appears in the “Fisheries Comprehensive Plan” This creates uncertainty with private investors who are concerned that government may still decide to compete with the private sector at a later date. As a result, private investors may be hesitant to invest.</p>	<p>Dept. of Fisheries</p>
2.6	<p>Certain members were upset that they still have not been able to obtain information on the fisheries agreement which had been negotiated with the EU. They also complained about the lack of stakeholder involvement in the negotiations.</p> <p>Mr. Michaud outlined that these important points, even though not all directly related to the Fisheries Transparency Initiative, clearly indicate the benefits of having an institutionalized and therefore regular stakeholder exchange on a variety of topics concerning the fisheries sector. It can be clearly assumed that these discussions will continue and even be strengthened once the National Multi-Stakeholder Group will engage in publishing the Seychelles first FiTI Report.</p>	<p>Dept. of Fisheries</p>

3.0	<b><u>Candidature Application</u></b>	
3.1	The draft candidature application was circulated again during the meeting, though it had already been circulated by email to members. Mr. Michaud went through the completed draft application form. Mr. Michaud provided certain clarifications to members.	ALL
3.2	Mr. Beatty Hoarau wanted to know why the Seychelles Fishing Authority (SFA) was not in effect hosting the FiTI Secretariat. Mr. Michaud explained that the SFA was currently dealing with many issues and is facing certain serious problems such as the absence of a CEO. For these reasons and as the lead Ministry, the Department of the Blue Economy has decided to take on the FiTI process. Discussions will be taking place soon to get SFA much more involved.	National FiTI Coordinator.
3.3	The members unanimously approved the draft candidature application.  Mr. Michaud thanked all the members of the National MSG for their efforts over the last months (totaling 7 meetings).	
3.4	The document will now be sent to the Vice President and following his approval will be submitted to the FiTI International Board for consideration. A complementary press release will be issued as well, in order to inform the general public about reaching this important milestone.	
4.0	<b><u>Any Other Business.</u></b>	
4.1	Some members expressed their wish that certain government organisations in particular the Department of Fisheries to change their mindset concerning transparency. Mr. Michaud highlighted the fact that President Faure is a strong advocate of transparency, accountability and good governance.	
4.2	On the proposal of Hon Ghislain, it was unanimously agreed that a copy of the minutes should be sent to the President	National FiTI Coordinator

**Having no other matters to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 1100 hours.**