

MINUTES OF 3rd MEETING

National Multi-Stakeholder Group Meeting

Fisheries Transparency Initiative

Date: Tuesday 28th May 2019

Venue: Blue Economy Department, Oliaji Trade Centre, fourth floor

Time: 11am

The Department of the Blue Economy as the FiTI Lead Ministry began the meeting by welcoming all members of the FiTI National Multi-Stakeholder Group.

The Director for FiTI- Mr. Sven Biermann and National Lead/Special Advisor in the Vice-President of the Republic's Office- Mr. Philippe Michaud, welcomed all attendees, and co-chaired the meeting.

The third meeting was held on Tuesday 28th May 2019 at the Oliaji Trade Centre, 4th Floor.

The following members were in attendance:

1. Mr. Jude Talma, Principal Secretary of Fisheries representing the Government
2. Mr. Keith Andre, FBOA
3. Mr. Roy Fonseka representing the Private Sector/Leader of the Opposition
4. Mrs. Marie-Thérèse Purvis, representing Civil Society (CEPS)
5. Mr. Peter Purvis, representing the Industrial Fleet

Invitees:

1. Mr. Sven Biermann, Director for Fisheries Transparency Initiative
2. Mr. Fawzi Rihane, Advisor for the Fisheries Transparency Initiative
3. Mr. Philippe Michaud, FiTI National Lead and Special Adviser on Blue Economy to the Vice President
4. Mr. Abel Sorry, Principal Research Officer, Department of the Blue Economy
5. Ms. Fatime Kante, Senior Economist, Department of the Blue Economy

Absent with apologies

1. Ms. Chantal Ghislain, Honourable Member of the National Assembly
2. Mr. Grant Heyer, Civil Society (CEPS)

A. Welcome by FiTI National Lead

Mr. Philippe Michaud invited members and invitees to briefly introduce themselves, which lasted 10 minutes. This was followed by a brief update from Mr. Seven Biermann on the Fisheries Transparency Initiative (FiTI).

B. Brief update from the FiTI International Secretariat

Mr. Biermann began by congratulating the Blue Economy Team for doing an outstanding work in making the FiTI event memorable. Earlier that day, the opening of the FiTI International Secretariat took place at the State House in the presence of President of the Republic of Seychelles- Mr. Danny Faure, Vice-President of the Republic of Seychelles- Mr. Vincent Meriton, Ambassadors/Consul, Ministers, Principal Secretaries, government officials and private sector representatives.

Mr. Biermann qualified the event as very positive, enriching and symbolic. It is now a fantastic opportunity to push the FiTI message to the International arena.

Mr. Sven Biermann proceeded by informing members that 7 countries are committed to FiTI: Guinea, Mauritania, Indonesia, Nigeria, Sao Tome y Principe, Senegal and Seychelles.

Mauritania is the first official country to become a FiTI Implementing Country.

International Governance for FiTI

The implementation of the FiTI is country-centred. The intention to join the FiTI must come from a country's government. Furthermore, active support for the implementation of the FiTI must be demonstrated, including the commitment to an enabling environment, the establishment of a National Multi-Stakeholder Group and the publication of accessible and complete information. While the implementation of the FiTI is voluntary, the FiTI Standard lays out minimum requirements for countries that seek to implement the FiTI in order to ensure that all implementing countries work towards the same levels of transparency. Compliance with these requirements will be validated regularly by the FiTI International Board.

Validation does not only safeguard the integrity of the FiTI by holding all FiTI implementing countries to the same global standard, it also helps promoting dialogue and learning at the national level and across countries


The FiTI International Board is composed of a chair and an International Board, including representatives from the Civil Society, Business and Country governments.


FiTI International Secretariat

The FiTI International Secretariat, which is expected to move from Berlin to Seychelles, is responsible for the day-to-day running of the FiTI. It provides the technical and administrative support to the FiTI International Board, to which it is also accountable. The FiTI International Secretariat also interacts frequently with countries to support implementation by sharing lessons learned with stakeholders, providing technical advice, managing the validation process and highlighting results in countries.

Mr. Biermann insisted on the fact that FiTI is not owned by a single organization. It is a Multi-Stakeholder Partnership. He aligned the expected benefits of the FiTI and said that NMSG and all stakeholders have to be clear on what the FiTI is all about and that information on the Fisheries Sector should be made public and accessible to all.

C. Required steps to finalise sign-up requirements

 The FiTI Standard has 12 FiTI transparency requirements against which all countries must report against whether information exists at all, and if information exists, whether information is publicly available as well as accessible.

 The Sign-up steps for countries

There's six steps in total, of which Seychelles now sees itself at step 4, where it has to submit its FiTI Candidate application to the FiTI International Board to become a FiTI Candidate.

Seychelles Terms of Reference should be officially approved and the NMSG should be perceived as inclusive.

D. Overview of the Candidate Application Template

Seychelles now sees itself at step 4, where it has to submit its FiTI Candidate application to the FiTI International Board to become an official FiTI Candidate. Afterwards, the Seychelles are expected to publish its first FiTI Report.

Members were advised to push for the immediate submission of Seychelles Candidature Application. The example of Mauritania was used.

Mauritania has done an excellent job on transparency and their application. Everything is published online.

E. Any Other Business/Way Forward

1. NMSG Members to submit their FiTI comments on the Terms of Reference at the next NMSG meeting scheduled for the 26th June.

2. A guidance note on how the FiTI Report should be done, its content and what are the challenges if a Ministry does not share the information, was published online on the 27th May
3. NMSG should make use of the FiTI website.
4. NMSG should start thinking as a group, what it wants to do over the next 12 months with FiTI.
5. The FiTI should hopefully be registered as a legal entity in Seychelles.
6. Thai Union would like to be involved in all transparency initiatives. NMSG will engage further with them.
7. The FiTI Cabinet Paper to be submitted by the end of June to Cabinet.
8. Mr. Abel Sorry will now be the focal point for FiTI within the Blue Economy. Ms. Fatime Kante will assist him until he is fully comfortable with the portfolio.

Having no other matters to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at noon.