



## THE VICE PRESIDENT

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OFFICE OF THE VICE PRESIDENT  
STATE HOUSE, VICTORIA, MAHE  
REPUBLIC OF SEYCHELLES

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6<sup>th</sup> March 2020

***Fisheries Transparency Initiative***

*Att.: Dr. Valeria Merino*

*Chair of the FiTI International Board*

***Official application of the Seychelles for becoming an FiTI Candidate country***

*Dear Dr. Merino,*

*First of all, let me congratulate you on your recent appointment as Chair of the FiTI International Board. I am looking forward to work with you and continuing our long-standing fruitful collaboration with the Fisheries Transparency Initiative.*

*I am very pleased to submit to you today our official candidate application for becoming an FiTI Candidate country, on behalf of our National Multi-Stakeholder Group (MSG). This group, which comprises of a total of 12 representatives – equally distributed among government, business and civil society – has worked extensively over the last 14 month (conducting 7 meetings) to reach this important milestone for our country.*

*Since the beginning of this implementation process, the FiTI has gained increasing momentum in my country. This is best demonstrated by the fact that we initially started this journey with 7 members in our National MSG, but soon had to extend it to 12 members due to public demands, in particular from civil society.*

*While it is clear that the bulk of work still lies ahead of us, reaching this milestone is an important achievement for the Seychelles. However, we will continue demonstrating our leadership in good ocean governance by publishing our first FiTI Report already by October 2020 (containing data from 2019).*

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*Continuation*

*This also contributes to our commitments towards the Open Government Partnership, to which we submitted our first National Action plan at the beginning of this year. In fact, the Seychelles is the first country globally to link these two initiatives.*

*Dr. Merino, I am confident that the International Board will acknowledge the work the Seychelles has invested already in making FiTI a success and I hope for a positive consideration of our application.*

*Yours sincerely,*

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Vincent Meriton', written over a horizontal line.

**Vincent Meriton**  
**Vice President**