



Fisheries
Transparency
Initiative

FiTI Board Circular

Board Circular No. 7

ID: BC-07_2022

Requested by: FiTI International Secretariat
Submitted by: FiTI International Secretariat
Submitted on: 31.01.2022
Decided on: 22.02.2022

Preamble

In accordance with article 15 of the constitution of the association of the Fisheries Transparency Initiative (as of 13 May 2021), *'the FiTI International Board shall make urgent decisions between Board Meetings, based on Board Circulars.'*

Purpose of this Circular

The purpose of this Circular is to approve the attached Guidance Note #3 'Validating countries' (draft date: 31 January 2022).¹

Decision required: Approval of Guidance Note #3 'Validating countries'

The reputation of the FiTI as an initiative promoting good governance in fisheries, in particular transparency, participation and accountability, is one of the initiative's greatest assets. This is also a major driver motivating countries to join the FiTI and benefit from its international standing. Robust and objective assurance procedures play an important role in creating and maintaining this reputation to ensure equal treatment of all countries.

Regular validations of implementing countries are therefore an essential part of the FiTI process,

- serving to assess an implementing country's compliance with the FiTI Standard;
- safeguarding the integrity of the FiTI by holding all FiTI implementing countries to the same global standard;
- assessing the impact of the FiTI in the country, reflecting stakeholder opinions, and listing recommendations for progressive improvement; and
- promoting dialogue and learning at the country level.

Section D of the FiTI Standard lists the provisions that must be applied when conducting validations, and states further that:

,Detailed guidance on the types of evidence that are required in order to make an assessment on individual requirements is set out in the FiTI Validation Guide.'

This new Guidance Note #3 will serve as the FiTI Validation Guide for the FiTI International Secretariat, Independent Validators and the FiTI International Board. This document will serve as the formal guidance on how to conduct validations in accordance with the provisions of the FiTI

¹ The FiTI International Board approved that the Guidance Note No. 3 'Validating countries' can be approved through a Board Circular [Decision: BM-15_2021_D-04].

Standard. It also clarifies expectations of FiTI implementing countries. It explains the scope, guiding principles and procedures for validation, gives guidance on assessing each requirement, and sets out standard terms of reference for validations and validation reports.

This Guidance Note is based entirely on these elements and the letter and spirit of the FiTI Standard as a whole. It therefore does not introduce any additional requirements or procedures other than those already outlined in the FiTI Standard.

The FiTI International Secretariat requests now a decision from the FiTI International Board in order to proceed with the upcoming validation.

Decision required_#1: Does the FiTI International Board approve the Guidance Note #3 'Validating countries' (draft version: 31 January 2022)?

Due date for this Board Circular

Board Members must reply to this Board Circular no later than **Tuesday, 22 February 2022** 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, Article 15 (5), *"Decisions requested through Board Circulars are adopted by qualified majority requiring the support of three quarter of the total number of members and must include the support of at least two members from each stakeholder group."*

The provisions of Article 14 (13-16) apply to the decision-making procedures through Board Circulars. Therefore, as the current total number of members is not equally distributed among the stakeholder groups stated in Article 8 of the constitution, not every member has one vote. Instead, the voting power is determined on a pro-rated system, ensuring that all stakeholder groups have equal voting power.

The pro-rated voting powers for this Board Circular of the FiTI International Board are as follows:

Stakeholder group	Number of voting members	Voting power per member
Government sector	4	1.5
Business sector	5	1.2
Social sector	5	1.2

This Board Circular is adopted if at least 13.5 votes support this decision, including 2 members from each stakeholder group.

Results protocol: Approval / Denial of Circular

The Board Circular was sent on 31 January 2022 to all applicable Board Members. The following results were recorded:

Name:	Stakeholder Group:	Sent on:	Responded on:	Approval?	Voting power:
Andriamahefazafy, Mialy	Government sector	31.01.2022	17.02.2022	Yes	1.5
Mattson, Ylva	Government sector	31.01.2022	17.02.2022	Yes	1.5
Michaud, Philippe	Government sector	31.01.2022	11.02.2022	Yes	1.5
Nany, Mohamed Salem	Government sector	31.01.2022			
Andre, Keith	Business sector	31.01.2022	22.02.2022	Yes	1.2
Biryukov, Alexander	Business sector	31.01.2022	11.02.2022	Yes	1.2
Govan, Hugh	Business sector	31.01.2022	13.02.2022	Yes	1.2
Leotte, Francisco	Business sector	31.01.2022	17.02.2022	Yes	1.2
Gueye, Gaoussou	Business sector	31.01.2022	18.02.2022	Yes	1.2
Mari, Francisco	Social sector	31.01.2022			
Nech, Nedwa Moctar	Social sector	31.01.2022	18.02.2022	Yes	1.2
Schumm, Alfred	Social sector	31.01.2022	17.02.2022	Yes	1.2
Rolon, Eduardo	Social sector	31.01.2022	18.02.2022	Yes	1.2
Senhoury, Ahmed	Social sector	31.01.2022	17.02.2022	Yes	1.2

Approval of Circular - Rule I: At least 13.5 votes in favour of supporting the decision:

15.3

Approval of Circular - Rule II: At least 2x 'Yes' from stakeholder group 'Government sector':

3

At least 2x 'Yes' from stakeholder group 'Business sector':

5

At least 2x 'Yes' from stakeholder group 'Social sector':

4

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

Decision [BC-07_2022_D-01]:

The International Board approves the Guidance Note #3 'Validating countries' (draft version: 31 January 2022), with the following enhancements:

- The Guidance Note needs to stronger emphasise that validations consider the spirit of the entire process on the road towards transparency and participation. It should not be seen as an audit exercise, only determining a country's level of compliance by judging a country's performance on every validation indicator.

- In this regard, greater flexibility in country's first validation processes should be applied, where suitable.
- The process step of determining a 'Stakeholder consultation & research plan' (as part of the Independent Validation) needs to ensure a sound balance between National Multi-Stakeholder Group members who are able to provide insights on how to make the national implementation process more effective, and stakeholders outside of this group, who can provide comments on the overall effectiveness for the country. Furthermore, it should be noted that the FiTI National Lead can comment on the 'Stakeholder consultation & research plan', but has no veto right.
- The Guidance Note needs to state clearly that the costs for the validation are covered by the FiTI International Secretariat.

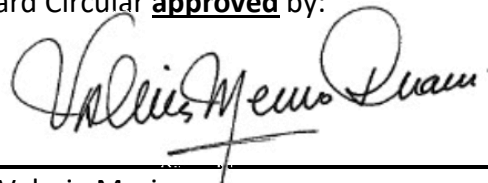
Board Circular **provided** by:



Mr Sven Biermann

Secretary of the Board Circular; Executive Director
of the FiTI International Secretariat

Board Circular **approved** by:



Dr Valeria Merino

Chair of the FiTI International Board.