



Fisheries
Transparency
Initiative

FiTI Board Circular

Board Circular No. 8

ID: BC-08_2022

Requested by: FiTI Chair

Submitted by: FiTI International Secretariat

Submitted on: 03.03.2022

Decided on: 09.03.2022

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 appoint the Independent Validator to conduct the second phase of the validation process for Seychelles.

Decision required: Approval of Independent Validator for Seychelles

Validation is an essential part of the FiTI process, and it serves to assess an implementing country's compliance with the FiTI Standard. Validation also helps promote dialogue and learning at the country level and safeguards the integrity of the FiTI by holding all FiTI implementing countries to the same global standard.

The FiTI International Board holds ultimate responsibility for the validation process.

The assessment of a country's compliance with the FiTI Standard is spread across **three phases of validation**, as shown below:

FiTI Standard	Section D.2.1	Section D.2.2	Section D.2.3
Phase of validation	1) Baseline Assessment Report	2) Validation Report	3) Compliance Statement
Responsibility	FiTI International Secretariat	Independent Validator	FiTI International Board

During its 14th meeting in September 2021, the FiTI International Board initiated the validation process for **Seychelles** by formally engaging the International Secretariat and determining the validation timeframe for Seychelles (April 2020 to December 2021).¹

¹ Decision [BM-14_2021_D-04]

In accordance with the FiTI Standard (section D) as well as the recently approved Guidance Note #3 (‘Validating countries’), the FiTI International Board must also appoint an Independent Validator, who reports to the FiTI International Board.

The Independent Validator is primarily tasked with conducting the second phase of the FiTI validation process (as shown above) and producing a **Validation Report for Seychelles**. Whereas the initial assessment, conducted by the FiTI International Secretariat, will be a technical, desk-based research, the second phase comprises primarily of stakeholder consultations (as well as complementary desk research). This phase of the process serves both roles, that of fact-finding and gathering of viewpoints of various stakeholders and key informants.

In more detail, the Independent Validator for Seychelles is responsible for the execution of the following tasks:

(1) ‘Stakeholder consultation & research plan’

- Prepare an initial plan that will cover the key aspects of gathering information for the validation process, including:
 - the list of documents to be reviewed (e.g. related FiTI documentation², third party reports, studies or research on relevant policy or thematic areas);
 - the list of interviews to be conducted (e.g. members of the Seychelles’ National MSG, the Report Compiler(s), the FiTI International Secretariat, as well as other key stakeholders and key informants, in particular those that are not directly participating in the National MSG); and
 - ideas for conducting stakeholder consultations (e.g. individual or group interviews, topic outline, and questions).

(2) Desktop research & stakeholder interviews

- Conduct desktop research as well as 10 to 12 interviews with stakeholders and key informants relevant for Seychelles’ fisheries sector (based on the previously determined plan) with the objectives to:
 - verify the baseline assessment of each individual FiTI requirement, as conducted by the FiTI International Secretariat;
 - identify opportunities to improve further the operational effectiveness as well as the impact of the national FiTI implementation for sustainable fisheries management; and

² For example, the Seychelles’ FiTI Annual Workplan(s), communication plans, the Seychelles’ National MSG’s Terms of Reference, minutes from MSG meetings, and the FiTI Reports for 2019 and 2020.

- provide a recommendation for the overall compliance designation, following the categories stated in section D.1.1 of the FiTI Standard.

(3) Validation Report

- Prepare a draft Validation Report summarising the validator's findings, evidence, stakeholder views, references, and recommendations;
- Request comments from Seychelles' National MSG on the draft report;
- Update and finalise the Validation Report, based on the feedback of Seychelles' National MSG; and
- Present and submit the Validation Report to the FiTI International Board (via a conference call).

In general, **costs** for the entire validation process, including the engagement of an Independent Validator, will be borne by the FiTI, either directly or through partners.

For the validation in Seychelles, and based on the financial support the FiTI receives from PROBLUE, an umbrella 2.0 multi-donor trust fund administered by the World Bank, the selection and procurement of an external consultant performing the duties of the Independent Validator as well as the financial compensation of services will be directly administered by the World Bank. No financial transfer occurs between PROBLUE and the FiTI regarding the cost coverage of the Independent Validator.

To start the engagement process, the World Bank determined **Terms of Reference** for the engagement of an Independent Validator for Seychelles, in close collaboration with the FiTI International Secretariat. These Terms of References were widely disseminated in mid of January 2022³.

The initial **evaluation of applicants** by the World Bank determined that none of the applicants met the basic requirements, and this appraisal was shared by the FiTI International Secretariat. Consequently, a **second application round** was launched from 27 January to 14 February 2022. Two applications were received during this second round. The subsequent evaluation by the World Bank and the FiTI International Secretariat clearly determined Mr. Jose Peiro Crespo as the leading candidate to serve as the Independent Validator Seychelles. Mr Crespo's cover letter and CV are attached to this Circular.

³ For example: <https://www.linkedin.com/jobs/view/2870784604/?refId=IxFLqipSeypJ4DM%2FZp6NQ%3D%3D>
The Terms of Reference are also attached to this Board Circular.

In addition, the FiTI International Secretariat would like to state that the Secretariat has not worked with Mr. Crespo before, and he has not been involved in Seychelles' FiTI implementation process and the FiTI reporting processes.

Therefore, there is no conflict of interest between Mr. Crespo and the FiTI International Secretariat.

The FiTI International Secretariat requests now a decision from the FiTI International Board for the World Bank to hire Mr Crespo in order to proceed with the upcoming validation in Seychelles.

Decision required_#1: Does the FiTI International Board approve contracting the consulting services of Mr Jose Peiro Crespo to act as the Independent Validator for Seychelles' validation (timeframe April 2020 to December 2021)?

Due date for this Board Circular

Eligible Board Members must reply to this Board Circular no later than **Wednesday, 9 March 2022** in writing (via email) and cannot assign 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. 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.

There is one apparent conflict of interest involving Board Member Philippe MICHAUD (Government sector) for this Board Circular. Philippe is not only the representative of Seychelles' government in the FiTI International Board, but also the Chair of the National Multi-Stakeholder Group in Seychelles. Consequently, Philippe is excluded from the decision-making procedures of this Board Circular. The number of voting members in the stakeholder group 'Government sector' is reduced from 4 to 3 members, and their voting rights have been adjusted accordingly.

The pro-rated voting powers for this 8th Board Circular of the FiTI International Board is as follows:

Stakeholder group	Number of voting members	Voting power per member
Government sector	3	2
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 03 March 2022 to all eligible Board Members. The following results were recorded:

Name:	Stakeholder Group:	Sent on:	Responded on:	Approval?	Voting power:
Andriamahefazafy, Mialy	Government sector	01.03.2022	08.03.2022	Yes	2
Mattson, Ylva	Government sector	01.03.2022	08.03.2022	Yes	2
Michaud, Philippe	Government sector	01.03.2022			
Nany, Mohamed Salem	Government sector	01.03.2022			
Andre, Keith	Business sector	01.03.2022			
Biryukov, Alexander	Business sector	01.03.2022	08.03.2022	Yes	1.2
Govan, Hugh	Business sector	01.03.2022	03.03.2022	Yes	1.2
Leotte, Francisco	Business sector	01.03.2022	08.03.2022	Yes	1.2
Gueye, Gaoussou	Business sector	01.03.2022	08.03.2022	Yes	1.2
Mari, Francisco	Social sector	01.03.2022			
Nech, Nedwa Moctar	Social sector	01.03.2022	08.03.2022	Yes	1.2
Schumm, Alfred	Social sector	01.03.2022	08.03.2022	Yes	1.2
Rolon, Eduardo	Social sector	01.03.2022	09.03.2022	Yes	1.2
Senhoury, Ahmed	Social sector	01.03.2022	08.03.2022	Yes	1.2

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

13.6

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

2

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

4

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

4

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

Decision [BC-08_2022_D-01]:

The International Board approved contracting the consulting services of Mr Jose Peiro Crespo to act as the Independent Validator for Seychelles' validation (timeframe April 2020 to December 2021).

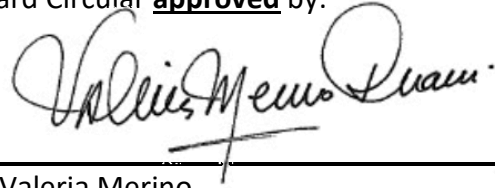
Board Circular **provided** by:



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.