



Dr Valeria Merino

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[Fisheries Transparency Initiative \(FiTI\); Providence/Seychelles](#)

Ms Narindra Raharison

Director of Legal Affairs and Litigation
Chair of the FiTI National Multi-Stakeholder Group
Ministry of Fisheries and Blue Economy
Antananarivo, Madagascar

6 December 2022

Copy to:

- Mahatante Tsimanaoraty Paubert, Minister, Ministry of Fisheries and Blue Economy
- Ranjaliva Ramananihanitramalala, Principal Officer in Ocean Governance, Ministry of Fisheries and Blue Economy
- Sven Biermann, Executive Director, FiTI International Secretariat
- Will May, Regional Coordinator (Western Indian Ocean), FiTI International Secretariat

Approval of the Candidate Application of Madagascar to the Fisheries Transparency Initiative (FiTI)

Dear Ms Raharison,

On 18 November 2022, I was very pleased to receive the official Candidate Application of Madagascar to the Fisheries Transparency Initiative (FiTI). I thank you once again for this submission.

The application was discussed during the 19th meeting of the International Board, which took place on the 5th of December, 2022. **I am pleased to inform you that the FiTI International Board approved this Candidate Application, making Madagascar the third country to be granted the status of a FiTI Candidate Country.**

On behalf of our Board, I wish to extend my congratulations to you and the FiTI National Multi-Stakeholder Group for this significant achievement.

The FiTI International Board was pleased with the thoroughness of the Candidate Application, which reflects the conscientious and hard work invested by the FiTI National Multi-Stakeholder Group during the entire FiTI sign-up process (in accordance with the FiTI Standard, Section A).



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The completion of these sign-up steps lays a strong foundation for Madagascar to embark on the next step of the FiTI process and publish its first FiTI Report. According to the FiTI Standard, *the National MSG must publish its first FiTI Report within the subsequent year of becoming a FiTI Candidate country (FiTI Standard, Section B.2.2)*. We are therefore excited to see Madagascar's first FiTI Report published in 2023 (containing information from 2022).

The FiTI International Secretariat will continue to support Madagascar's national authorities as well as the country's National Multi-Stakeholder Group with technical guidance throughout this new phase of implementation.

Ms Raharison, once again, I wish to extend the congratulations of the FiTI International Board to you and all FiTI actors in Madagascar for this achievement, which is an important first step for Madagascar towards establishing and maintaining high levels of transparency in the management of the marine fisheries sector and the activities of fishers and fishing companies.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Valeria Merino". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Dr Valeria Merino
Chair of the FiTI International Board