



Fisheries
Transparency
Initiative

FiTI Board Circular

Board Circular No. 14

ID: BC-14_2023

Requested by: FiTI Chair

Submitted by: FiTI International Secretariat

Submitted on: 07.11.2023

Decided on: 15.11.2023

Preamble

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

Purpose of this Circular

In accordance with section C.1.2 of the FiTI Standard, an implementing country may apply for an extension if it is unable to meet the required deadlines of FiTI implementation (e.g. publication of an annual FiTI Report) due to exceptional or unforeseen circumstances, as described in the aforementioned section.

The purpose of this Circular is to approve the following three extension requests:

- 1) Seychelles' request to extend the deadline of its 4th annual FiTI Report (covering the calendar year 2022) from 31 December 2023 to 30 April 2024;
- 2) Mauritania's request to extend the deadline of its 4th annual FiTI Report (covering the calendar year 2022) from 31 December 2023 to 29 February 2024;
- 3) Ecuador's request to extend the deadline of its 1st annual FiTI Report (covering the calendar year 2022) from 31 December 2023 to 31 May 2024.

Decision required #1: Approving Seychelles' extension request

On 4 October 2023, the FiTI Chair received the extension request from Seychelles' FiTI National Lead (Mr Philippe MICHAUD) regarding the submission of the country's 4th annual FiTI Report. In accordance with section B.2.2. of the FiTI Standard, the publication of this report is due by 31 December 2023. As stated in the request letter (attached to this Board Circular), the National Multi-Stakeholder Group of Seychelles is requesting a 4-month extension, seeking to publish this report the latest by 30 April 2024.

It is planned that this report will comprise information from the calendar year 2022 and cover all 12 thematic areas of the FiTI Standard.

In accordance with section C.2.1, the extension request states the exceptional and unforeseen circumstances that caused the delay, which can be summarised as follows:

- Delays due to the operational transition of the responsible person within the FiTI National Secretariat of Seychelles; and

- Delays in securing funding for contracting a Report Compiler.

It is also stated that the transition within the FiTI National Secretariat has been completed, and that funding has been secured for the FiTI reporting process. Furthermore, it has been brought to the attention of the FiTI International Secretariat that the Report Compiler has now been formally contracted and is expected to start the work within the next two weeks.

This is Seychelles' second extension request for an annual FiTI Report.

Decision required_#1: Does the FiTI International Board approve Seychelles' request (received on 4 October 2023) to extend the due date of the country's 4th annual FiTI Report from 31 December 2023 to 30 April 2024?

Decision required #2: Approving Mauritania's extension request

On 16 October 2023, the FiTI Chair received the extension request from Mauritania's Head of the FiTI National Secretariat (Mr Lamine CAMARA) regarding the submission of the country's 4th annual FiTI Report. In accordance with section B.2.2. of the FiTI Standard, the publication of this report is due by 31 December 2023. As stated in the request letter (attached to this Board Circular), the National Multi-Stakeholder Group of Mauritania is requesting a 2-month extension, seeking to publish this report the latest by 29 February 2024.

It is planned that this report will comprise information from the calendar year 2022 and cover all 12 thematic areas of the FiTI Standard.

In accordance with section C.2.1, the extension request states the exceptional and unforeseen circumstance that caused the delay, which can be summarised as follows:

- Delays in securing funding for contracting a Report Compiler.

It is also stated that funding has now been secured for the FiTI reporting process (from the German Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ)). Furthermore, it has been brought to the attention of the FiTI International Secretariat that the Report Compiler has been formally contracted and has already started working on this report.

This is Mauritania's fourth extension request for an Annual FiTI Report.

Decision required_#2: Does the FiTI International Board approve Mauritania's request (received on 16 October 2023) to extend the due date of the country's 4th annual FiTI Report from 31 December 2023 to 29 February 2024?

Decision required #3: Approving Ecuador's extension request

On 31 October 2023, the FiTI Chair received the extension request from Ecuador's FiTI National Lead (Mr Andrés ARENS HIDALGO) regarding the submission of the country's 1st annual FiTI Report. In accordance with section B.2.2. of the FiTI Standard, the publication of this report is due by 31 December 2023. As stated in the request letter (attached to this Board Circular), the National Multi-Stakeholder Group of Ecuador is requesting a 5-month extension, seeking to publish this report the latest by 31 May 2024.

It is planned that this report will comprise information from the calendar year 2022 and cover all 12 thematic areas of the FiTI Standard.

In accordance with section C.2.1, the extension request states the exceptional and unforeseen circumstances that caused the delay, which can be summarised as follows:

- Early presidential election (August – October 2023) due to the dissolution of Ecuador's National Assembly and early termination of the Presidential in May 2023, as stated in the Ecuadorian Constitution;
- Worsening economic and security situation in recent months;
- Delays in securing funding for contracting a Report Compiler.

It is stated that funding has now been secured for the FiTI reporting process (from the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), with the support of the Pan American Development Foundation (PADF)) and that the contracting of the Report Compilers should be completed within the next days. It is expected that the Report Compilers will commence their work mid of November 2023.

This is Ecuador's first extension request for an Annual FiTI Report.

Decision required_#3: Does the FiTI International Board approve Ecuador's request (received on 31 October 2023) to extend the due date of the country's 1st annual FiTI Report from 31 December 2023 to 31 May 2024?

Due date for this Board Circular

Eligible Board Members must reply to this Board Circular no later than **Wednesday, 15 November 2023, 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 quarters 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.

Furthermore, there are several apparent conflict of interest involving Board Members.

- Regarding decision number #1 (‘Seychelles’ request’), Board Member Roy CLARISSE (Government sector) must recuse himself from this particular decision, due to the fact that Roy is serving as the Principal Secretary for the Department of Fisheries within Seychelles’ Ministry of Fisheries and Blue Economy, and is also a member of Seychelles’ FiTI National Multi-Stakeholder Group. Roy does not need to recuse himself from the other two decision items.

Furthermore, Board Member Keith ANDRE (Business sector) must also recuse himself from this particular decision, due to the fact that Keith is a Seychelles citizen and has served on Seychelles’ FiTI National Multi-Stakeholder Group. Keith does not need to recuse himself from the other two decision items.

- Regarding decision number #2 (‘Mauritania’s request’), Board Member Ahmed SENHOURY (Social sector) must recuse himself from this particular decision, due to the fact that Ahmed is a Mauritanian citizen and has contributed significantly to previous FiTI Reports in Mauritania (including financial assistance for the country’s first two FiTI Reports). Ahmed does not need to recuse himself from the other two decision items.
- Regarding decision number #3 (‘Ecuador’s request’), Board Member Andrés ARENS (Government sector) must recuse himself from this particular decision, due to the fact that Andrés is the FiTI National Lead of Ecuador. Andrés does not need to recuse himself from the other two decision items.

The pro-rated voting powers for this 14th Board Circular of the FiTI International Board are as follows:

| Stakeholder group | Voting procedures for 'Seychelles' extension request' | | Voting procedures for 'Mauritania's extension request' | | Voting procedures for 'Ecuador's extension request' | |
|--------------------------|---|-------------------------|--|-------------------------|---|-------------------------|
| | Number of voting members | Voting power per member | Voting power per member | Voting power per member | Number of voting members | Voting power per member |
| Government sector | 3 | 2.0 | 4 | 1.5 | 3 | 2.0 |
| Business sector | 4 | 1.5 | 5 | 1.2 | 5 | 1.2 |
| Social sector | 6 | 1.0 | 5 | 1.2 | 6 | 1.0 |

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

Results protocol: Approval / Denial of Circular

This Board Circular was sent on 7 November 2023 to all Board Members via email. The following results were recorded:

| Name: | Stakeholder Group: | Sent on: | Responded on: | Decision 1: Seychelles - Approval? | Voting power: | Decision 2: Mauritania - Approval? | Voting power: | Decision 3: Ecuador - Approval? | Voting power: |
|-------------------------|--------------------|------------|---------------|------------------------------------|---------------|------------------------------------|---------------|---------------------------------|---------------|
| Andres Arens | Government sector | 07.11.2023 | 14.11.2023 | Yes | 2.0 | Yes | 1.5 | | |
| Roy Clarisse | Government sector | 07.11.2023 | 14.11.2023 | | | Yes | 1.5 | Yes | 2.0 |
| Joacim Johanneson | Government sector | 07.11.2023 | 08.11.2023 | Yes | 2.0 | Yes | 1.5 | Yes | 2.0 |
| Annika Mackensen | Government sector | 07.11.2023 | 14.11.2023 | Yes | 2.0 | Yes | 1.5 | Yes | 2.0 |
| Keith Andre | Business sector | 07.11.2023 | 14.11.2023 | | | Yes | 1.2 | Yes | 1.2 |
| Hugh Govan | Business sector | 07.11.2023 | 09.11.2023 | Yes | 1.5 | Yes | 1.2 | Yes | 1.2 |
| Tony Lazazzara | Business sector | 07.11.2023 | 08.11.2023 | Yes | 1.5 | Yes | 1.2 | Yes | 1.2 |
| Dawda Foday Saine | Business sector | 07.11.2023 | | | | | | | |
| Alfredo Sfeir | Business sector | 07.11.2023 | 15.11.2023 | Yes | 1.5 | Yes | 1.2 | Yes | 1.2 |
| Maisie Pigeon | Social sector | 07.11.2023 | 14.11.2023 | Yes | 1.0 | Yes | 1.2 | Yes | 1.0 |
| Ahmed Senhoury | Social sector | 07.11.2023 | 08.11.2023 | Yes | 1.0 | | | Yes | 1.0 |
| Annie Tourette | Social sector | 07.11.2023 | 09.11.2023 | Yes | 1.0 | Yes | 1.2 | Yes | 1.0 |
| Ketakandriana Rafitoson | Social sector | 07.11.2023 | 15.11.2023 | Yes | 1.0 | Yes | 1.2 | Yes | 1.0 |
| Umair Shahid | Social sector | 07.11.2023 | 15.11.2023 | Yes | 1.0 | Yes | 1.2 | Yes | 1.0 |
| Zacari Edwards | Social sector | 07.11.2023 | | | | | | | |

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

15.5

15.6

15.8

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

3

4

3

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

3

4

4

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

5

4

5

Based on these responses, the following decisions have been determined:

Decision [BC-14_2023_D-01]:

The International Board approves Seychelles' request (received on 4 October 2023) to extend the due date of the country's 4th annual FiTI Report from 31 December 2023 to 30 April 2024.

Decision [BC-14_2023_D-02]:

The International Board approves Mauritania's request (received on 16 October 2023) to extend the due date of the country's 4th annual FiTI Report from 31 December 2023 to 29 February 2024.

Decision [BC-14_2023_D-03]:

The International Board approves Ecuador's request (received on 31 October 2023) to extend the due date of the country's 1st annual FiTI Report from 31 December 2023 to 31 May 2024.

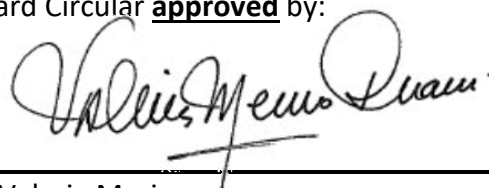
Board Circular **provided** by:



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