



MINISTRY  
OF  
FISHERIES AND  
AQUACULTURE  
DEVELOPMENT

P. O Box GP 630, Accra-Ghana  
Digital Address: GA-110-1062

Kindly quote this number and date on all correspondence

My Ref. No. SC-42/1134/01

Your Ref. No. \_\_\_\_\_

Date. 5<sup>th</sup> July, 2024

**LETTER OF INTENTION TO JOIN THE FISHERIES TRANSPARENCY  
INITIATIVE (FITI)**

Ghana has extensive and valuable marine fisheries resources that are exploited by both industrial and artisanal fishers. The fisheries and aquaculture sector contributes to food and nutritional security, poverty alleviation, wealth and job creation to an estimated 3 million people engaged in the fisheries and aquaculture value chain. Marine fisheries contribute about 70 percent of the annual total fish production which translates into significant income and foreign exchange towards Ghana's Gross Domestic Product (GDP), economic development and the sustainable livelihoods of vulnerable coastal communities.

2. The marine fisheries sub-sector in Ghana is confronted with emerging challenges such as illegal fishing, depleting fish stocks, overcapacity and overfishing, marine pollution and the adverse impact of climate change. The Government is pursuing several regulatory and structural reforms to improve the current state of fisheries productivity and performance to contribute to national development.

3. The Government is also collaborating with partners to address lapses in fisheries enforcement operations through the adoption of information technologies to ensure transparency and compliance to fisheries laws and regulations by operators. Accessibility of fisheries management information will aid effective decision making for policy formulation and implementation in collaboration with relevant stakeholders.

4. It is recalled that Ghana participated in the Fisheries Transparency Initiative (FITI) Taking Stock Transparency Assessment in 2022. The FITI Assessment Report indicated that Ghana is not data deficient but identified some lapses in the framework to make valuable fisheries management information publicly accessible especially on online platforms for the usage of information users.

5. The Ministry is pleased to inform you of its intention to join FITI and welcomes the partnership between our Ministry and FITI to work with relevant government regulatory institutions, industry and Fisheries Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) to improve accessibility and transparency in marine fisheries management in accordance with the FITI standard.

6. Ghana's partnership with FITI demonstrates our commitment towards good governance for responsible fisheries as well as to open government, as manifested in our longstanding membership with the Open Government Partnership (OGP). The Ministry hopes the collaboration with FITI will enable Ghana to implement the FITI Standard as a cost-sensitive approach for improving marine fisheries governance in Ghana.

7. We look forward to further engagements on areas of collaboration under the FITI Partnership.



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8. Thank you.

**MRS. MAVIS HAWA KOOMSON (MP)**  
**HON. MINISTER**

**DR VALERIA MERINO**  
**CHAIR OF THE FITI INTERNATIONAL BOARD**  
**FITI**  
**PROVIDENCE-SEYCHELLES**

cc: The Hon. Deputy Minister, MoFAD  
The Chief Director, MoFAD  
The Executive Director, FC