



Fisheries
Transparency
Initiative

25th meeting of the FiTI International Board

2 July 2024, Conference Call

Meeting Minutes

ID: BM-25_2024_MM

Provided by: FiTI International Secretariat

Date: 13.09.2024

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Date	2 July 2024
Time	1.00 – 3.10 p.m. Universal Time Coordinated (UTC)
Venue	Conference Call (Zoom)
Supporting document(s)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>Call for 2024 membership election to the FiTI association</i> (date: 5 June 2024), file: 'FiTI_IB_2024MemberElection_20240605.docx' ▪ <i>Membership Policy of the FiTI association</i> (date: 24 May 2024), file: 'FiTI_MembershipPolicyAssociation_EN_20240514.docx'

Outcomes of meeting

1. Welcome and administration

The Chair of the FiTI International Board (herein referred to as ‘Chair’), Valeria MERINO, opened the 25th International Board meeting by welcoming all participating Members and Observers.

Apologies were noted prior to the meeting from Board Members Annie TOURETTE and Zacari EDWARDS (both stakeholder group: Social Sector) as well as Observers UN FAO (Marcio CASTRO DE SOUZA) and Open Government Partnership (Adna KARAMEHIC-OATES). Annie delegated her decision-making power to Ketakandriana RAFITOSON; Zachari delegated his decision-making power to the Chair, as shown in Appendix I.

After all eligible participants joined, Mr Sven BIERMANN, Executive Director (ED) of the FiTI International Secretariat (herein referred to as ‘Secretariat’), determined that a quorum for this meeting was reached¹:

Pro-rated attendance of Board Members ² :	At least two Board Members per stakeholder group?	Attendance of Observers:
18.0 out of 18 votes	Yes	1 out of 3

The Chair welcomed two new colleagues from the Secretariat, Ms Karine YOUNG (Grant Manager) and Ms Dorothea GARFF (Validation Coordinator).

In her opening remarks, the Chair emphasised that Board Members were requested to voice to her their concerns or anticipated contentious issues about any of the points included in this agenda before this meeting. This way, such aspects could be incorporated into the discussion, additional information could be gathered, and time in the agenda could

¹ In accordance with article 14 (7) of the constitution of the association of the Fisheries Transparency Initiative (as of 13 May 2021): ‘No binding decision shall be made in an FiTI International Board meeting unless a quorum is present at the time of making the decision. Half of the total number of members (including proxies), with at least two members from each stakeholder group, forms a quorum.’

² In accordance with article 14 (13) of the constitution of the association of the Fisheries Transparency Initiative (as of 13 May 2021). ‘Every member has one vote, unless the current total number of members is not equally distributed among the stakeholder groups stated in Article 8. In such a case, voting power shall be determined on a pro-rated system, ensuring that all stakeholder groups have equal voting power.’

As not all 18 seats have been filled for this Board meeting, the pro-rated voting powers for this FiTI International Board meeting were determined as follows:

- **Government sector:** Currently four Board Members → each Board Member carries 1.5 votes.
- **Business sector:** Currently five Board Members → each Board Member carries 1.2 votes.
- **Social sector:** Currently six Board Members → each Board Member carries 1 vote.

be allocated if needed. Board Members communicated no such concerns or feedback prior to this meeting, besides the already identified aspect of the Board language (as documented below).

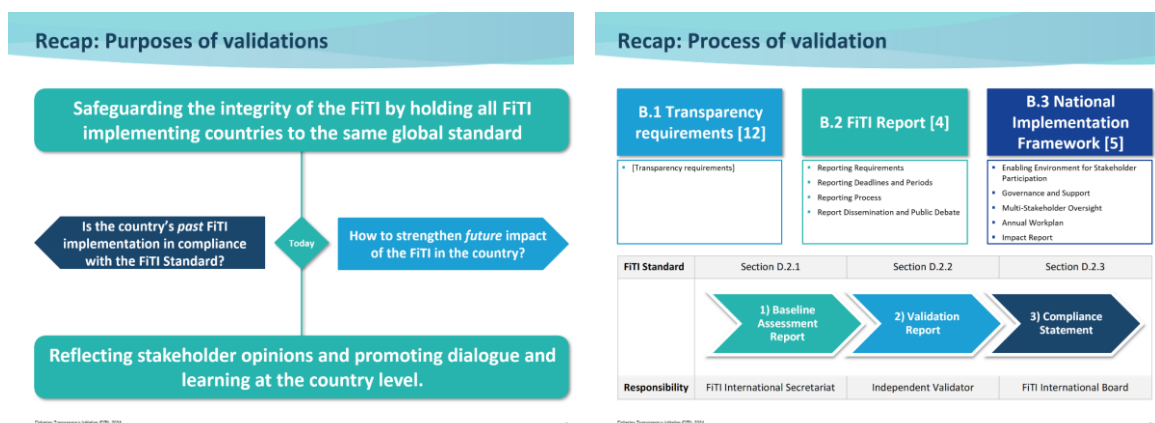
2. Upcoming country validations

The Chair asked the Secretariat’s Validation Coordinator, Ms Dorothea GARFF, to provide a brief overview of the various decision items.

Dorothea started by recalling that validation is an essential part of the FiTI implementation process. It offers a unique opportunity to conduct an objective and standardised verification of a country’s past performances against the FiTI Standard (namely its transparency and procedural requirements, as well as the country’s enabling environment for multi-stakeholder participation and oversight). It also helps to identify lessons learned, enhancement opportunities and corrective actions to further strengthen the operational effectiveness of the FiTI implementation and the overall impact of the FiTI for the sustainable management of a country’s marine fisheries.

Validation also promotes 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. As such, the validation process is beneficial for national stakeholders in validated countries as well as for the FiTI’s international stakeholders (e.g. business partners, donors etc.).

The Board holds the overall responsibility for the validation process. The provisions that must be applied when conducting validations are set forth in section D of the FiTI Standard.³



³ <https://fiti.global/fiti-standard>

2nd validations for Mauritania and Seychelles

Dorothea stated that during 2023, the Board recognised Seychelles’ and Mauritania’s efforts to implement the FiTI Standard with a score of ‘meaningful progress’ in the countries’ first validations.⁴ Both countries remained a FiTI Candidate Country since then, and were tasked with implementing several corrective actions, as documented in each of the country’s final Compliance Statement. Furthermore, the Board stated that it will review the implementation status of these corrective actions during each country’s 2nd validation process, which was expected to start for Seychelles and Mauritania in June 2024.

Dorothea also highlighted briefly possible scenarios based on the outcomes of the countries’ 2nd validation (in accordance with section E.2.3 of the FiTI Standard) and provided an overview of the key parameters for both upcoming validations.

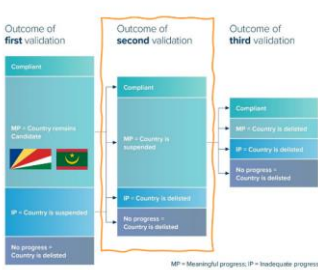
Recap: Outcomes of first country validations

i. Compliant: Validation demonstrates that all aspects of the requirement have been implemented and that the broader objective of the requirement has been fulfilled.

ii. Meaningful progress: Validation demonstrates that significant aspects of the requirement have been implemented and that the broader objective of the requirement has been fulfilled.



iii. Inadequate progress: Validation demonstrates that significant aspects of the requirement have not been implemented, and that the broader objective of the requirement is not fulfilled.

iv. No progress: Validation demonstrates that all or nearly all aspects of the requirement have not been implemented, and that the broader objective of the requirement is far from being fulfilled.



MP = Meaningful progress; IP = Inadequate progress

2nd validations for Seychelles and Mauritania

	 Seychelles	 Mauritania
Type of validation	Regular (2 nd) validation	Regular (2 nd) validation
Timeframe of validation:	January 2022 until July 2024	April 2022 until July 2024
Baseline Assessment Report:	Open, to be completed by end of August 2024	Open, to be completed by end of August 2024
Independent Validation:	Open, to be completed by end of November 2024	Open, to be completed by end of November 2024
Determination of compliance:	Open, to be completed by end of December 2024	Open, to be completed by end of December 2024

Afterwards, the participating Board Members reached the following decision by consensus:⁵

Decision [BM-25_2024_D-01]:

The International Board tasked the FiTI International Secretariat to launch the 2nd validation process for:

- Seychelles (validation timeframe: January 2022 until July 2024) and
- Mauritania (validation timeframe: April 2022 until July 2024),

and requested the Baseline Assessment Reports for both countries to be completed by end of August 2024.

⁴ <https://fiti.global/validation-of-seychelles-shows-meaningful-progress-in-implementing-fiti-standard> and <https://fiti.global/international-board-sees-meaningful-progress-of-fiti-implementation-in-mauritania>

⁵ Board Members Roy CLARISSE, Keith ANDRE (both Seychelles citizens) and Ahmed SENHOURY (Mauritanian citizens) were requested to recuse themselves from this decision due to a perceived conflict of interest.

Appointment of Independent Validator(s) for Mauritania's and Seychelles' validation

The Chair reminded the Board that, in addition to tasking the Secretariat with initiating these validations – and in accordance with the FiTI Standard (section D) as well as Guidance Note #3 (,Validating countries') – the Board must also appoint an Independent Validator, who reports to the Board. The Chair recalled that the engagement of Independent Validators for Seychelles' and Mauritania's 1st validations derived some valuable lessons on how to select a validator. Based on these outcomes, emphasis has to be given on engaging professionals with a thorough understanding of the country's fisheries sector and context as well as overall fisheries governance principles.

Dorothea noted that after an internal analysis, the Secretariat recommends to the Board the appointment of Mr Stefaan Depypere as the Independent Validator for both countries, i.e. Mauritania and Seychelles. Mr Depypere already conducted Mauritania's first validation and has profound knowledge of both countries (and regions), due to his previous work as Director for International Ocean Governance and Sustainable Fisheries at the European Commission (DG MARE) and his current consulting engagements. Dorothea also confirmed that Mr Depypere has not been involved in either countries' FiTI implementation or FiTI reporting processes.

Afterwards, the Board reached the following decision by consensus:⁶

Decision [BM-25_2024_D-02]:

The International Board approved contracting the consulting services of Mr Stefaan Depypere to act as the Independent Validator for Mauritania's and Seychelles' second validation.

1st validations for Cabo Verde and Madagascar

Finally, Dorothea recalled that in accordance with the current FiTI Standard (section D.4), FiTI Candidate countries must undergo a validation prior to publishing their second FiTI Report. Launching a validation process would be required for Cabo Verde and Madagascar, both FiTI Candidate countries and currently in the process of preparing their second FiTI Report (due by the end of the year). However, the FiTI Standard is undergoing a significant review process, including major changes to the upcoming validation process, which key parameters have already been approved by the Board and will enter in effect in 2025.

⁶ Board Members Roy CLARISSE, Keith ANDRE (both citizens of Seychelles) and Ahmed SENHOURY (citizen of Mauritania) were requested to recuse themselves from this decision due to a perceived conflict of interest.

The Chair emphasised that during its 22nd meeting in December 2023, the Board approved, inter alia, the recommendation that *‘FiTI implementing countries should undergo only one comprehensive ‘Compliance Validation’ to reach the status of a FiTI Compliant Country [max. after 5 years]. Afterwards, regular ‘Compliance Reviews’ will be conducted to ensure ongoing compliance with this status.’*

Dorothea, therefore, requested the Board to review the applicability of the current FiTI Standard for these two countries, considering that the Board also discussed the need to address the need for a transition process for countries that have already joined the FiTI. The Board was asked to consider that both countries (Cabo Verde and Madagascar) joined the FiTI recently and conducting a validation at this stage – when a new validation procedure has already been determined for FiTI Standard 2.0⁷ – will create a situation in which a sizable number of countries will follow a different system. Furthermore, based on previous experiences, it must be assumed that initiating a validation now will most likely not be completed before the second quarter of 2025, meaning that both countries would have to adhere to two versions of the FiTI Standard at the same time.⁸

The Chair added that in the spirit of having countries engaging with the FiTI in equal terms, it is advisable that as many countries as possible follow the same validation process under the new FiTI Standard. She noted further that the updated validation procedures of FiTI Standard 2.0 would allow Cabo Verde’s and Madagascar’s National Multi-Stakeholder Groups to improve compliance with all FiTI Standard requirements before a validation and to become familiar with the updated FiTI Standard before undergoing its validation procedure.

Dorothea mentioned that if the Board approves the recommendation of the Secretariat to apply the updated validation procedures of the FiTI Standard 2.0 to Cabo Verde and Madagascar, both countries will remain FiTI Candidate countries until they become eligible for validation under the new FiTI Standard.

After discussing the proposal, the Board reached the following decision by consensus:⁹

Decision [BM-25_2024_D-03]:

The International Board approved that the updated validation procedures of FiTI Standard 2.0 are applicable to Cabo Verde and Madagascar and that, until both countries

⁷ The new procedure will establish that countries will undergo only one external validation after 5 years of joining the FiTI, unless the country asks to have it before because it thinks it would be declared compliant.

⁸ In such a situation, the current FiTI Standard (v1.1) would be the applicable framework for the countries’ validations, whereas the new FiTI Standard (v2.0) would be applicable to all other implementation requirements.

⁹ Board Member Ketakandriana RAFITOSON (citizen of Madagascar) was requested to recuse herself from this decision due to a perceived conflict of interest.

become eligible for validation under the new FiTI Standard, both countries remain a FiTI Candidate country.

3. Status of Senegal as a committed country

The Chair asked the ED to briefly summarise the key activities and events related to Senegal. The ED recalled that the process of joining the FiTI was initiated following the public commitment of former President Macky SALL, more than 8 years ago (on 3 February 2016, during the first [FiTI International Conference in Mauritania](#)). Since then, Senegal has been listed as one of the countries committed to the FiTI. However, after its initial commitment in 2016, the country has made no progress in finalising the mandatory [sign-up steps](#).

The ED emphasised that the Secretariat and the Board have been monitoring this situation carefully over the last years in the spirit of nurturing positive signs of progress towards fisheries transparency (such as the inclusion of the FiTI in the country's first and second [National Action Plans \(NAP\) of the OGP](#))¹⁰. However, and in addition to this unsatisfactory level of commitment in part of the country, national and international stakeholders expressed their concern with Senegal's status in the initiative.¹¹

In April 2024, the previous opposition member Mr Bassirou Diomaye Faye was sworn in as Senegal's new president. President Faye emphasised the need for transparency during his campaign and even signed the 'Charter for Sustainable Fishing' as part of his election promises, which was established by the 'Coalition National Pour Une Pêche Durable' (CONAPED); the Coalition brings together the country's largest artisanal and industrial fishing stakeholders. The Charter includes a clear commitment to implement the FiTI in Senegal.

¹⁰ A major accomplishment has been the inclusion of the FiTI in the draft National Action Plan (NAP) of the Open Government Partnership (OGP) for Senegal. However, as no progress was achieved under the first NAP, a commitment to '[Finalize Joining the Fisheries Transparency Initiative](#)' has been included in the country's second NAP (SN0016). It needs to be noted that the first identified action item under this commitment (i.e. 'Advocacy to complete the remaining steps to FiTI membership') is due by June 2024 and it is doubtful whether the country will achieve this milestone. <https://www.opengovpartnership.org/members/senegal/>

¹¹ For example, in the official response letter from the Steering Committee of the Coalition for Fisheries Transparency (CFT) to the FiTI, the CFT used the case of FiTI in Senegal to question the validity of FiTI's compliance approach: "As advocates for reform, we also share your concern that governments could disingenuously support one transparency scheme and not only neglect to engage with other efforts but also fail to make reforms. This risk is not confined to support for the Charter, however. For example, Senegal made a commitment to implement FiTI in February 2016. Over eight years later, it has yet to make any substantive transparency reforms or even designate a ministry responsible for FiTI implementation. Yet, Senegalese government representatives cite the country's listing as a FiTI-committed country when declining to make transparency reforms as recommended by advocacy organizations."

In May 2024, the newly appointed Minister for Fisheries, Maritime and Port Infrastructures (MPIMP), Dr Fatou Diouf, published the [long-awaited list of vessels authorised to fish in waters under Senegalese jurisdiction](#). This was an encouraging step towards transparency and emphasised the new Senegalese government's intention to strengthen good governance and accountability. At the same time, the implementation process of the FiTI in Senegal has not progressed under the new administration, as the government has yet to officially appoint the FiTI Lead Ministry, a FiTI National Lead, and start the process of establishing the country's FiTI National Multi-Stakeholder Group.

Considering the challenges facing the new government, the Board was presented with two options on how to address this situation:

- **[Option 1]** The Board removes Senegal from its list of committed countries with immediate effect and requests the Chair to communicate this decision and its rationale to the Minister of MPIMP, while at the same time encourages the MPIMP to issue a new commitment. A press release about this removal will be published on the FiTI website.
- **[Option 2]** The Board retains Senegal's status as a committed country for now, but requests the FiTI Chair to send a written communication to the Minister of MPIMP, outlining that Senegal must
 - appoint the FiTI Lead Ministry and a FiTI National Lead by the end of July 2024, and
 - submit its complete Candidate Country application by the end of December 2024.

Missing either deadline will result in removing Senegal from the list of committed countries.

A press release making the Board's decision public will be published on the FiTI website.

The Chair briefly highlighted the tremendous efforts that the Secretariat, its partners (such as the Regional Partnership for the Conservation of the Coastal and Marine Zone (PRCM)) and other national and international stakeholders (including the [Open Government Partnership \(OGP\)](#)) had undertaken to support the administrations of Senegal in advancing the FiTI implementation process. The Chair recalled her country mission to Senegal in 2022 to discuss the situation with several government and non-governmental stakeholders in Senegal.

Afterwards, the Chair, Members and Observers of the Board provided their feedback on the proposed options:

- Several Members of the Board stated their preference to pursue with option 1, given that sufficient time and support has been given to Senegal over the last years and despite this, no progress on even very basic implementation steps (such as the appointment of a FiTI Lead Ministry) has been achieved. It was further emphasised that the FiTI must safeguard the integrity of the process established in its Standard to ensure that all FiTI implementing countries are given equal treatment. This also includes that countries not advancing the implementation process should no longer be associated with the initiative. The Chair mentioned that the Board is proposing to establish a deadline to complete the process to join the FiTI in the 2.0 version of the Standard to prevent this situation from repeating.
- Other Board members recommended offering the recently inaugurated government the opportunity to complete the sign-up steps while establishing a final and definitive implementation pathway and deadlines for Senegal to remain within the FiTI. It was particularly noted that the new government has taken encouraging steps towards fisheries transparency and that the FiTI should consider that it takes some time for a new government to get up to speed with all pending commitments.

After extensive discussions, the Board reached the following decision by consensus:¹²

Decision [BM-25_2024_D-04]:

The International Board approved that Senegal will retain its current status as a committed country, but in order to do so, the government of Senegal must:

- **appoint the FiTI Lead Ministry and a FiTI National Lead and communicate this decision in writing to the FiTI Chair by 31 July 2024, and**
- **submit its completed Candidate Country application in writing (including all supporting documents) to the FiTI Chair by 31 December 2024.**

Missing either one of those two deadlines will result in the delisting of Senegal from the FiTI, in accordance with section E.1.3 of the FiTI Standard.

The Board requested the Chair to send a written communication about this decision and its conditionality to the Minister of the MPIMP and the Secretariat to publish a press release about this decision on the FiTI website.

¹² Board Member Ahmed SENHOURY (Mauritanian citizens, but Senegalese resident) was requested to recuse himself from this decision due to a perceived conflict of interest.

4. Operating language(s) of the FiTI International Board

The Chair recalled that as part of the discussion of the new 'FiTI Membership Policy' several Board members requested that the requirement that Board Members be proficient in reading, writing, and speaking English should be reviewed, mainly due to a potential membership restriction to those not competent in English, limiting the capacity of potentially valuable candidates to the Board.

This requirement was decided during the 13th Board meeting (July 2021) to ensure the good and cost-effective operation of the Board and the full participation of its members. This decision was informed by the experience of having Board Members in the past that were not completely fluent in English and the related challenges.

It was noted that since then, the situation of the FiTI has changed (e.g. regarding regional expansions, size of the organisation, and financial resources) and the organisation is better suited now to modify this requirement.

The Chair briefly summarised the key outcomes of several activities she conducted during June 2024 to facilitate the Board's addressing this request in a consensus-seeking process, including circulating a survey among Board Members and Observers to gather expectations and opinions towards operating language(s) in the Board. Based on this, a virtual meeting for Members and Observers to discuss alternatives was conducted on 28 June 2024. During this meeting, the Chair presented a recommendation paper, which was endorsed by unanimous consensus to submit to the Board at the upcoming Board meeting. The recommendation paper was afterwards circulated via email to all Board Members and Observers for final comments. No such comments were received before the set deadline (1 July 2024).

During the Board's discussion of the endorsed recommendation paper – presented by the Chair - the members and other participants shared the following comments and concerns.

- Several members expressed their appreciation for this procedure, not only to seek an outcome that would eliminate language restrictions for participating in the Board (while considering operational challenges for the Secretariat), but also regarding the thorough and consensus-oriented process, addressing this challenging subject without delays.
- The ED emphasised that translations should only be provided for those Board Members that do not read, write, or speak English at all, and should not apply to those Members that are capable but uncomfortable engaging in English written or verbal conversations.
- The Chair emphasised that English would remain the official operational language of the Board.

- The ED also stated that in case additional translations need to be provided (other than English), the costs for future in-person Board meetings will increase significantly.
- Zachari EDWARDS stated that while there are several reasonable-priced translators offering their services for fisheries-related organisations, engaging translators that are proficient in simultaneous translations and that have profound knowledge about fisheries and its terminology can be expensive. Nevertheless, it is important to engage such proficient translators to ensure accurate translation and achieve the full participation of Board members. The Chair requested that Board Members or Observers already engaging good and cost-effective translators send their contact information to the Secretariat to compile a list of suitable translators, should the need arise.

After extensive discussions, the Board reached the following decision by consensus:

Decision [BM-25_2024_D-05]:

The FiTI International approved the following with regards to changes in language requirement for Board Members:

- **Eliminate with immediate effect from the list of requirements of the Membership Policy the provision that Board Members must be fluent in English;**
- **Provide for Board meetings simultaneous translation to and from English to whatever language a future elected non-fluent English-speaking member chooses.¹³ This service will include but be limited to member (s) onboarding sessions and board meetings. Board Members who benefit from this service must commit to confirming their attendance at Board meetings in advance to ensure that the translation expenses do not go to waste. The obligation of the Secretariat to provide such translation services will end when the member(s) term on the FiTI International Board ends;**
- **Provide simultaneous translation to and from English for interviewing Board candidates in future elections to the language requested by such candidates who are not capable of having a fluent conversation in English;¹⁴**
- **Translate from English to the language future elected members choose, who cannot read in English at a fluency level, Preparatory Papers and accompanying supporting documents (submitted before a Board meeting), Meeting Minutes (submitted after**

¹³ This provision was determined as, in principle, limiting the participation of Board members to those fluent in a few additional languages (e.g., English, Spanish, French) could also be seen as restrictive and exclusionary by those who do not speak those particular languages.

¹⁴ The membership election process is planned to begin on 15 July 2024. Announcements of the election process and submissions of candidacy documents have to be made in English, which has not been a problem for nominating organisations in the past.

the meeting) as well as Board Circulars and its accompanying supporting documents. The Secretariat will use online translation services (e.g. DeepL or Google Translate), but an official translator will not validate such translations. Hence, such documents will not be considered official documents. The official operating language of the Board remains English, and all references to formal decisions, background, or rationale will follow the English version of documents published on the FiTI website or sent by email to Board members;

- Translate from English to the language future elected members choose, who cannot read in English at a fluency level, other relevant governance documents, such as the Constitution of the FiTI association, the FiTI's Code of Conduct, FiTI's Travel Policy or the FiTI's Membership Policy, which are published online only in English. The Secretariat will also use the above-mentioned online services, and translations will not be considered official documents either. Finally, technical documents intended to regulate and guide the FiTI implementation process (e.g. FiTI Standard, Guidance Notes, etc.) will be provided only in the languages the FiTI is administratively operating and will not be translated to other languages;¹⁵
- Conduct official and non-official email communications between the Chair and Board Members or the Secretariat and Board Members only in English. Board Members who are not fluent in written English are expected to utilise online services to translate such messages back and forth. This decision will be reviewed 3-6 months after its initial application;
- Utilise paid simultaneous translation for Working Groups or Committees on a case-by-case basis to allow non-fluent-English-speaking Board Members to participate. The participation of members in such Working Groups or Committees will be decided based on the financial capability of the FiTI to pay for simultaneous translation or the feasibility of having volunteered trusting companions or other board members to provide translation. The Chair is tasked with assessing such feasibility before inviting non-fluent-English-speaking Board Member(s) to join such Working Groups or Committees;
- Task the Secretariat with monitoring the impact on the length of Board Meetings once non-fluent-English-speaking Members join the Board and propose adding additional meetings to the yearly calendar;
- Task the Secretariat with forecasting the anticipated translation costs for each year as part of its annual Workplan to assess the impact of this service on FiTI's administrative budget.

¹⁵ Currently, those languages are English, French, Spanish and Portuguese.

5. Membership policy of the FiTI association

The Chair stated that during the Board's 23rd meeting (February 2024) the need to establish and approve a membership policy for the FiTI association was determined, as several current Board Members were undergoing changes in their working situation or stakeholder affiliation which might have impacted their eligibility to serve on the Board.

Such a membership policy was presented to the Board via Board Circular #15 but was not approved due to insufficient responses during the time period allocated.

Referring to the previous agenda item, the Chair recalled that the only concern mentioned by some Board Members was the requirement to be proficient in English, and, given that a consensus was reached regarding the language(s) of the FiTI International Board, the Chair put the previous Membership Policy of the FiTI association (date: 24 May 2024) forward for formal approval.¹⁶

Afterwards, the Board reached the following decision by consensus:

Decision [BM-25_2024_D-06]:

The International Board approved the 'Membership Policy of the FiTI association' (draft date: 14 May 2024), with the adjustment that the requirement of 'Candidates must be proficient in reading, writing, and speaking English' is eliminated from the policy.

6. 2024 membership election for the FiTI association

The Chair opened the last agenda item for this meeting by recalling that the Board approved through Board Circular No. 10 the adoption of the procedure for the 2021 membership election to the FiTI association as the general procedure for future elections of members until the Board deems it appropriate to amend such procedures.¹⁷ Only time-bound parameters, such as the number of vacant membership seats or milestones of the election process, will be adjusted.

Given that several Board membership seats are currently vacant – and dependent on the application of the now approved FiTI's membership policy, additional seats may become vacant – a 2024 membership election must be conducted to ensure an operating and representative Board.

The Chair then emphasised that this is also the first time that several Board Members will approach the end of their first term (by December 2024) and due to the fact that the

¹⁶ The Membership Policy of the FiTI association was circulated to Board Members prior to this meeting, as part of the preparatory documents.

¹⁷ <https://fiti.global/fiti-international-board> [Decision ID: BC-10_2022_D-03].

current election procedure does not specify how to handle such a situation, an updated 'Call for 2024 membership election to the FiTI association' (date: 5 June 2024) has been circulated prior to this meeting to all participants.

The Chair requested feedback from the participants regarding the proposed changes to the proposed 2024 election procedure:

- Board member Tony LAZAZZARA recommended slightly adjusting the requirements for members seeking re-election. Particularly regarding requesting the member to provide a new nomination letter from her/his organisation. He suggested that it should be sufficient for a current member to express in writing the intent to remain on the Board for a second term via email, confirming that the original professional affiliation has not changed and that the previous nominating organisation continues supporting the member to remain in the Board. The same would be applicable to the requirement of providing a CV; if the candidate is a current Board member, a CV should not need to be provided unless key information has changed.

Afterward, the Board reached the following decision by consensus:

Decision [BM-25_2024_D-07]:

The International Board approved the 'Call for 2024 membership election to the FiTI association' (date: 5 June 2024), with the following three adjustments:

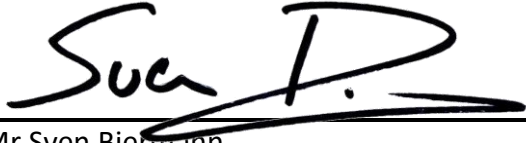
- **The requirement of 'Candidates must be proficient in reading, writing, and speaking English' is eliminated from the election procedure.**
- **Current Board members seeking re-election are not required to present a renewed nomination letter from her/his organisation, but instead need to confirm in writing via email that the original professional affiliation has not changed and that the previous nominating organisation continues supporting her/his second term on the Board.**
- **Current Board members seeking re-election are not required to present a CV, unless key information has changed.**

7. Closing & Outlook for next Board meeting(s)

The Chair closed the meeting by thanking all participants for their continuous engagement.

The 25th International Board Meeting ended.

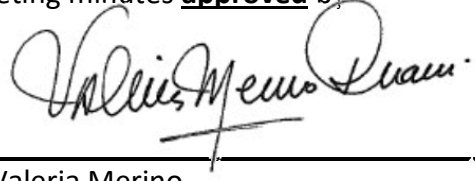
Meeting minutes **provided** by:



Mr Sven Bienmann

Secretary of the meeting; Executive Director of the
FiTI International Secretariat

Meeting minutes **approved** by:



Dr Valeria Merino

Chair of the FiTI International Board

APPENDIX I: List of Participants

Chair

Valeria MERINO

Stakeholder group: Government sector

Andres ARENS	[Voting power for this meeting: 1.5 votes]
Roy CLARISSE	[Voting power for this meeting: 1.5 votes]
Annika MACKENSEN	[Voting power for this meeting: 1.5 votes]
Joacim JOHANNESON	[Voting power for this meeting: 1.5 votes]

Stakeholder group: Business sector

Keith ANDRE	[Voting power for this meeting: 1.2 votes]
Hugh GOVAN	[Voting power for this meeting: 1.2 votes]
Tony LAZZARA	[Voting power for this meeting: 1.2 votes]
Dawda Foday SAINÉ	[Voting power for this meeting: 1.2 votes]
Alfredo SFEIR	[Voting power for this meeting: 1.2 votes]

Stakeholder group: Social sector

Maisie PIGEON	[Voting power for this meeting: 1.0 vote]
Ketakandriana RAFITOSON	[Voting power for this meeting: 2.0 vote]
Ahmed SENHOURY	[Voting power for this meeting: 1.0 vote]
Umair SHAHID	[Voting power for this meeting: 1.0 vote]

Excused:

Zacari EDWARDS¹⁸

Annie TOURETTE¹⁹

¹⁸ Zacari EDWARDS delegated his decision-making power to the Chair but was able to participate for certain parts of the meeting.

¹⁹ Annie TOURETTE delegated her decision-making power to Ketakandriana RAFITOSON.

Observers

World Bank Group, represented by Julien MILLION

Excused:

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), represented by Marcio CASTRO DE SOUZA

Open Government Partnership, represented by Adna KARAMEHIC-OATES

FiTI International Secretariat

Sven BIERMANN

Dorothea GARFF (only parts of the meeting)

Karine YOUNG

Guests

None