



GOVERNMENT OF SIERRA LEONE
OFFICE OF THE HON. MINISTER OF FISHERIES AND MARINE RESOURCES
7th FLOOR YOUYI BUILDING, BROOKSFIELDS, FREETOWN
Email: princessbio@yahoo.co.uk

TO: The International Board Chair
Fisheries Transparency Initiative
Highway Point Building
PO Box 6079
Providence, Mahe Seychelles

20th September, 2024

Dear Sir/Madam,

**SIERRA LEONE'S COMMITMENT TO JOIN THE FISHERIES
TRANSPARENCY INITIATIVE (FITI)**

I am writing to formally express the interest of the Government of Sierra Leone, through the Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources (MFMR), to join the Fisheries Transparency Initiative (FiTI). Our ministry is dedicated to ensuring sustainable management of our marine resources, combating illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing, and promoting the long-term development of the fisheries sector, which is vital for the livelihoods of many Sierra Leoneans.

Please be informed that, the MFMR has been actively working to enhance transparency, accountability, and good governance within the sector. Over the years, we have implemented various Local and International initiatives to improve the sustainability and management of our fisheries. However, recognizing the importance of a more global and cohesive approach, we believe that joining FiTI will further strengthen our efforts and bring Sierra Leone into the fold of international best practices for fisheries governance.

It may interest you to note that, the FiTI aligns with Sierra Leone's commitment to promoting transparency and accountability, particularly in the fight against IUU fishing, which poses a significant threat to the sustainability of our fisheries. Furthermore, this Ministry understands the critical importance of making fisheries data publicly accessible, thereby improving decision-making processes and enhancing the trust of stakeholders, including investors, fishing vessel operations, the private sector, and local and international partners.

Additionally, Sierra Leone recognises that joining the FiTI will reinforce our national efforts and contribute to global efforts towards more sustainable fisheries. I am committed to working collaboratively with FiTI to enhance transparency in the fisheries sector and ensure that fisheries activities within our jurisdiction are conducted in a manner that is socially, economically, and environmentally sustainable.

We look forward to engaging with FiTI and other member countries to share knowledge, experiences and practices that will further our mutual goal of transparency and sustainable fisheries management.

Please accept the assurances of my highest esteem.

Yours Faithfully,



Hon. Princess Dugba (Mrs.)
Minister of Fisheries and Marine Resources