



ENHANCING TRANSPARENCY OF FISHERIES MANAGEMENT: ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES FOR AN EFFECTIVE FITI IMPLEMENTATION PROCESS

The Fisheries Transparency Initiative (FiTI) is implemented in countries through **National Multi-Stakeholder Groups (MSGs)**, consisting of equal representation from government, businesses and civil society organisations. In order for a National MSG to effectively enhance transparency and stakeholder participation, support is needed from a **Coordinating Authority** within the country's government, a **National Focal Point**, a **Chair of the National MSG**, as well as a **National Secretariat**.

COORDINATING AUTHORITY

Coordinates and facilitates the implementation of the FiTI in the country.



Your government must designate a national authority (e.g. Ministry, public agency) as the Coordinating Authority.

This Coordinating Authority is often directly related to fisheries, blue economy or environment, but could also be another governmental body (e.g. Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Economic Development, Ministry of Foreign Affairs) or directly located in the President's or Prime Minister's office.

NATIONAL FOCAL POINT

Initiates and oversees the FiTI implementation process and acts as the government's focal point.



Senior government official from the
Coordinating Authority (e.g. State Secretary,
Director)

- Must be active in office
- Must have the confidence of all stakeholders
- Must be able to coordinate and promote the FiTI implementation across relevant ministries and agencies

Responsibilities (Examples)

- Coordinates the establishment of the FiTI National Multi-Stakeholder Group;
- Establishes a properly resourced National Secretariat;
- Mobilises political support and financial resources for the FiTI implementation in your country;
- Monitors the overall FiTI implementation process;
- Serves as the national escalation point regarding the FiTI implementation;
- Acts as the country's focal point to the FiTI International Secretariat.

CHAIR OF THE FITI NATIONAL MSG

Steers the work of the National MSG and facilitates the group's decision-making.



Either National Focal Point,

or

(Active or retired) senior government representative (e.g. former Minister, Ambassador),

or

(Active or retired) senior representative from an intergovernmental organisation or another relevant institution (e.g. NGO)

- Supported by non-governmental Co-Chair (to be determined by country)

Responsibilities (Examples)

- Chairs the meetings of your country's National MSG;
- Facilitates consensus building;
- Oversees the National Secretariat;
- Represents the National MSG in external matters (e.g. meetings, conferences);
- Seeks collaborative relationships with other relevant stakeholders;
- Receives grievances regarding breaches of FiTI's principles, spirit, and/or the FiTI Code of Conduct.

NATIONAL SECRETARIAT

Provides administrative and operational support to the National MSG as well as its Chair.



Staff from the Coordinating Authority,

or

Staff from another organisation (e.g. industry association, chamber, or NGO),

or

External consultant

- Must have sufficient time to execute the responsibilities
- Depending on the country, is either a part-time or a full-time position
- Is accountable to the FiTI National MSG

Responsibilities (Examples)

- Prepares, schedules and follows up on National MSG meetings;
- Maintains the document repository of the national FiTI implementation process (e.g. MSG meeting minutes, Terms of References, FiTI Reports);
- Drafts the National MSG work plans and other support documents (e.g. communication strategy);
- Conducts outreach and media activities;
- Supports the annual FiTI reporting process (e.g. data collection);
- Identifies human, technical and financial resource needs and sources;
- Liaises with the FiTI International Secretariat.

Enhancing transparency and stakeholder participation in fisheries management is led by national stakeholders. The FiTI International Secretariat supports these stakeholders with technical assistance, implementation guidance, the sharing of lessons learned and knowledge exchanges, regular transparency assessments and compliance validations, and promotes country achievements.

