



# ENHANCING TRANSPARENCY OF FISHERIES MANAGEMENT VOICING CONCERNS ABOUT NATIONAL FITI IMPLEMENTATIONS

## AN ENABLING ENVIRONMENT FOR FISHERIES TRANSPARENCY

A collaborative, multi-stakeholder approach guides all national FiTI implementations. Therefore, governments must provide an enabling environment where all stakeholders can:

participate actively and effectively in the implementation of the FiTI.



communicate and cooperate with each other regarding the FiTI.



express their opinions about the FiTI without restraint, coercion or reprisal.



engage in public debates related to wider fisheries governance issues.



## TYPES OF CONCERNS REGARDING NATIONAL FITI IMPLEMENTATIONS

A stakeholder in a FiTI implementing country (e.g. a member of the National Multi-Stakeholder Group (MSG)) may identify or even experience activities that are not in compliance with the FiTI, its underlying principles and rules. These can fall into three main categories, referred to as **Concerns**:

**Concerns regarding the restriction on the participation of a stakeholder group or its representatives.**

Examples

- Public authorities hinder or restrict civil society organisations, industrial fishing companies or small-scale fishers' associations from participating in the national FiTI process.
- Stakeholders engaged in the FiTI process cannot speak freely about the FiTI, for example during National MSG meetings, public events, to the media, etc.
- National MSG members are pressured or coerced into accepting the position of more influential members even when they disagree.

**Concerns regarding the wilful provision of misinformation and/or withholding of information.**

Examples

- Public authorities intentionally misinform the National MSG about the number and/or key contractual parameters of foreign fishing access agreements.
- Fisheries data is withheld from public access without valid legal justifications, or based on vague claims of complexity or operational challenges.
- Published data about fish stocks are deliberately overstated to allow for continued high catches.

**Concerns regarding misconduct or inappropriate behaviour of stakeholders engaged in the FiTI process.**

Examples

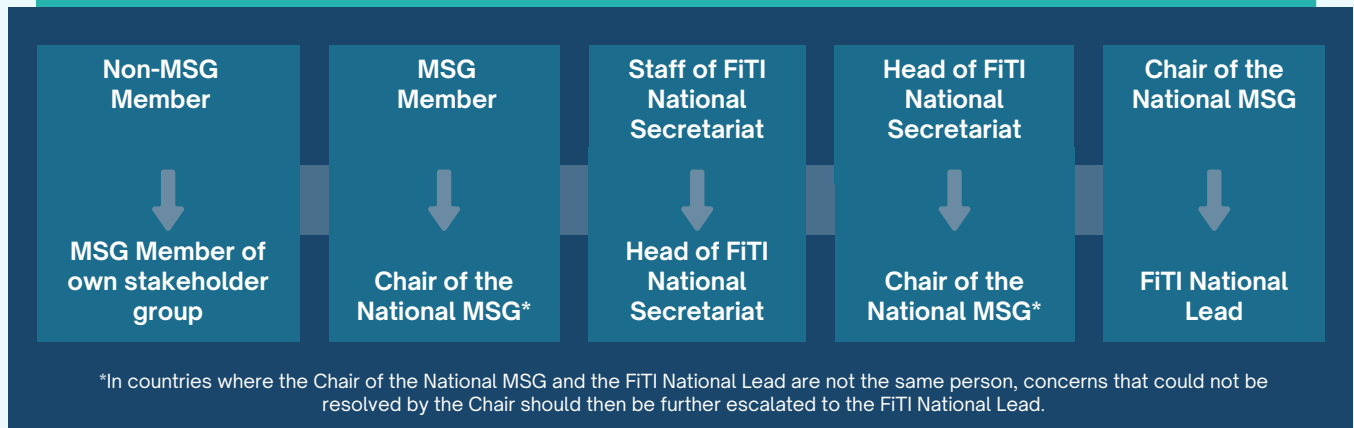
- Stakeholders demonstrate disrespectful conduct, such as insensitivity to diversity, gender, religion or showing undue influence due to political affiliations, etc.
- Stakeholders fail to adhere to ethical conduct, for example by abusing entrusted power, engaging in corrupt practices, or by not disclosing conflicts of interest.
- Stakeholders behave unprofessionally, for example through the irresponsible use of resources dedicated to the FiTI process or their lack of confidentiality.

## RAISING CONCERNS AT THE NATIONAL LEVEL



**Concerns from stakeholders MUST first be raised at the national level.**

If a *concern* is not satisfactorily resolved by the corresponding contact point (as shown below), or if the stakeholder feels uncomfortable raising a *concern* with the immediate contact point, the *concern* should be directed to the next higher contact point in the hierarchy.



Only those issues that could not be satisfactorily addressed at the national level, or where the stakeholder is not comfortable raising a *concern* at the national level, should be submitted to the FiTI Compliance Channel.

## RAISING CONCERNS AT THE INTERNATIONAL LEVEL



The FiTI Compliance Channel supports the integrity of national FiTI implementations by providing relevant stakeholders with a safe and structured avenue to raise *concerns* about actual or perceived non-compliance with the Fisheries Transparency Initiative.

### Key Features

- A secure web-based form administered by the FiTI International Secretariat.
- Good-faith and legitimate *concerns* that could not be satisfactorily addressed at the national level will be reviewed, and begin to be addressed within 5 business days.
- Depending on the priority and sensitivity, the FiTI International Board will be involved.
- *Concerns* will be handled confidentially.
- Any wilfully false or malicious allegations or discriminations against those raising legitimate *concerns* in good faith is strictly prohibited.



Scan the QR code to learn more or to submit your *concern*.