



Fisheries
Transparency
Initiative

FiTI Board Circular

Board Circular No. 23

ID: BC-23_2025

Requested by: FiTI Chair and the Working Group 'FiTI Standard 2.0'

Submitted by: FiTI Chair

Submitted on: 27.10.2025

Decided on: 08.11.2025

Preamble

In accordance with Article 15 of the Constitution of the Association of the Fisheries Transparency Initiative (as of May 13th, 2021), *‘the FiTI International Board shall make urgent decisions between Board Meetings, based on Board Circulars.’*

Purpose of this Circular

The purpose of this Circular is to obtain approval from the FiTI International Board regarding the attached FiTI Standard 2.0 (draft date: 24 October 2025). If approved, the Standard will undergo a public consultation phase in November (for more information please see below ‘Next steps’).

Decision required: Approval of FiTI Standard 2.0 for public consultation

The first FiTI Standard was released in April 2017, following nearly two years of extensive discussions among governments, industrial fishing companies, small-scale fishing representatives, intergovernmental organisations, and civil society groups working on fisheries and marine conservation. Since its inception, the FiTI Standard has demonstrated its effectiveness and has become the framework for transparency in national marine fisheries management.

In July 2023, the International Board established a dedicated [Working Group](#) to oversee the review of the FiTI Standard and make a recommendation to the International Board on how to update it to version 2.0.

Several factors have influenced the impetus to revise the FiTI Standard. More than seven years after its launch, the number of governments, organizations, corporations, and individuals involved in FiTI had grown considerably, bringing fresh perspectives and ideas. During this period, and continuing to the present day, the context for fisheries transparency has significantly evolved, as new international agreements have raised expectations regarding the information that governments should make public.

These new requirements include, for example, enhanced public reporting to the World Trade Organisation (WTO) on the provision of fisheries subsidies, as well as improved reporting by parties of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES). There has also been progress in international norms, such as those on beneficial ownership transparency and on the labour rights and conditions of people working at sea.

The attached draft FiTI Standard version 2.0 is the outcome of more than 2 years of collaboration between the International Secretariat, the Board-designated Working Group¹, stakeholders from implementing countries, as well as international fisheries and governance experts from governments, the large and small-scale fishing sector, and civil society.

Please note that the section ‘About the FiTI Standard’ in the attached draft Standard provides a summary of the key changes from the current FiTI Standard (version 1.1) to this updated version (2.0), and Board Members are requested to familiarise themselves with this section before reading the entire FiTI Standard 2.0.

In addition, it is critical to emphasise the following aspects:

- The FiTI Standard 2.0 addresses the lack of a clear separation between the responsibilities of the national authorities and the responsibilities of the National Multi-Stakeholder Groups (MSGs). This has proven to be a significant shortcoming of the current Standard 1.1, given that responsibilities in Part I are not clearly distinguishable. The proposed FiTI Standard 2.0 comprises three main parts: Part I for national authorities, Part II for National MSGs, and Part III for the international governance. This will help national stakeholders easily identify the relevant section, while also giving greater prominence to the National MSG.
- The importance of the transparency requirements of the Standard has been elevated in terms of its placement in the document, as it is now shown at the beginning of the Standard (Part I, section A).
- The principle of progressive improvement – which is fundamental to the implementation of the FiTI’s Standard – is also much more clearly emphasised and explained in the updated version through its own dedicated section (Part II, section E).
- Changes to the procedural framework of the FiTI Standard – which the International Board already approved in its [22nd meeting \(December 2023\)](#) have been fully incorporated in this updated version.

Furthermore, to facilitate understanding of additional changes not addressed above, comment boxes have been included on the document's side, flagged with [FYI]. These comments provide background information on why a change is proposed.

¹ The Working Group comprises the following members: Marcio Castro De Souza; Hugh Govan; Joacim Johannesson; Valeria Merino; Julien Million; Rocio Parra Cortés; Dawda Foday Saine; Daniel Skerritt. The Working Group was supported by staff from the International Secretariat: Sven Biermann, Andre Standing, Karine Young.

During its last meeting on 23 October 2025, the Working Group approved the attached version, and is requesting a decision from the FiTI International Board to approve the attached draft FiTI Standard 2.0, and also that it undergoes a public consultation phase:²

Decision required_#1: Does the FiTI International Board approve the attached FiTI Standard 2.0 (draft date: 24 October 2025) and that it undergoes a public consultation?

Further suggestions about wording changes to the draft Standard (e.g. clarification of provisions, correction of spelling errors, factual errors, etc.) that do not impact the meaning of the proposed Standard version 2.0 can be communicated directly to the FiTI International Secretariat, copying the FiTI Chair, by Friday, 7 November 2025.

Next steps:

Subject to approval of this Circular, the FiTI Standard 2.0 will undergo a **public consultation** phase with the purpose of:

- Obtaining additional expert feedback on the FiTI Standard 2.0, ensuring that the FiTI Standard is relevant, effective, and technically correct.
- Ensuring that the process of updating the FiTI Standard is inclusive, allowing stakeholders to provide feedback.
- Ensuring that fisheries and governance stakeholders are aware of the upcoming changes to the FiTI Standard and its significance.

The key parameters of the public consultation phase are as follows:

- **Target audience:** General public (including targeted organisations and individual experts)
- **Timeframe:** Monday, 10 November 2025 – Friday, 5 December 2025 [4 weeks]
- **Languages:** The draft FiTI Standard 2.0 will be circulated and made available in four languages (EN, ES, FR, PO)
- **Format:** The draft FiTI Standard 2.0 will be published on the FiTI website (blog) in a designed PDF format.
- **Feedback mechanism:** Comments and feedback will be received by email to the following email address: info@fiti.global.

² Prior to this, the document was also thoroughly reviewed and discussed by the staff of the International Secretariat.

Afterwards, the International Secretariat will consolidate the main comments and suggestions from the public consultation phase, and – if needed – consult with the Working Group to recommend to the International Board a final version of the FiTI Standard 2.0 for approval.

This final approval of the FiTI Standard 2.0 is expected to happen during the 32nd Board meeting, scheduled for Thursday, 11 December 2025.

Deadline to reply to this Board Circular

Eligible Board Members must reply to this Board Circular no later than **Friday, 7 November 2025**, in writing (via email) and cannot assign a proxy.

In order for Board Members to raise questions regarding the FiTI Standard 2.0 and to facilitate the decision-making process, the FiTI International Secretariat is scheduling an online Question & Answer session on **Monday, 3 November 2025**. Attendance of this session is optional.

Decision-making procedures for this Board Circular

In accordance with the constitution of the FiTI, Article 15 (5), *“Decisions requested through Board Circulars are adopted by qualified majority requiring the support of three quarters of the total number of members and must include the support of at least two members from each stakeholder group.”*

The provisions of Article 14 (13-16) apply to the decision-making procedures through Board Circulars. As the current total number of members is not equally distributed among the stakeholder groups stated in Article 8 of the constitution, not every member has one vote. Instead, the voting power is determined on a pro-rated system, ensuring that all stakeholder groups have equal voting power.

Furthermore, any Board member who considers that a conflict of interest would prevent him/her from participating in this decision-making process should notify the Chair and excuse himself/herself from voting on this Circular.

The pro-rated voting powers for this 23rd Board Circular of the FiTI International Board are as follows:

Stakeholder group	Approval of FiTI Standard 2.0 for public consultation	
	Number of voting members	Voting power per member
Government sector	5	1.2
Business sector	5	1.2
Social sector	4	1.5

The Circular is approved if at least 13.5 votes support the decision, including two members from each stakeholder group.

Results protocol: Approval / Denial of Circular

This Board Circular was sent on 27 October 2025 to all eligible Board Members via email. The following results were recorded:

Name:	Stakeholder Group:	Sent on:	Responded on:	Decision: Approval of FiTI Standard 2.0 for public consultation	Voting power:
Roy Clarisse	Government sector	27.10.2025	07.11.2025	Yes	1.2
Joacim Johanneson	Government sector	27.10.2025	05.11.2025	Yes	1.2
Estelle Jones	Government sector	27.10.2025	07.11.2025	Yes	1.2
Annika Mackensen	Government sector	27.10.2025	04.11.2025	Yes	1.2
Rocío Parra Cortés	Government sector	27.10.2025	07.11.2025	Yes	1.2
Hugh Govan	Business sector	27.10.2025	[Not applicable]	Yes	1.2
Tony Lazazzara	Business sector	27.10.2025	05.11.2025	Yes	1.2
Néstor Roche	Business sector	27.10.2025	07.11.2025	Yes	1.2
Dawda Foday Saine	Business sector	27.10.2025	07.11.2025	Yes	1.2
Carlos (Cadu) Villaça	Business sector	27.10.2025	07.11.2025	Yes	1.2
Ketakandriana Rafitoson	Social sector	27.10.2025	05.11.2025	Yes	1.5
Umair Shahid	Social sector	27.10.2025	07.11.2025	Yes	1.5
Daniel Skerritt	Social sector	27.10.2025	[Not applicable]	Yes	1.5
Annie Tourette	Social sector	27.10.2025	06.11.2025	Yes	1.5

Approval of Circular - Rule I:

At least 13.5 votes in favour of supporting the decision:

18.0

Approval of Circular - Rule II:

At least 2x 'Yes' from stakeholder group 'Government':

5

At least 2x 'Yes' from stakeholder group 'Business':

5

At least 2x 'Yes' from stakeholder group 'Social':

4

Based on these responses, the following decision has been determined:

Decision [BC-23_2025_D-01]:

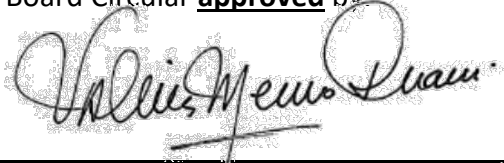
The International Board approved the attached FiTI Standard 2.0 (draft date: 24 October 2025) and that it can undergo a public consultation.

Board Circular **provided** by:



Mr Sven Biermann
Secretary of the Board Circular; Executive Director
of the FiTI International Secretariat

Board Circular **approved** by:



Dr Valeria Merino
Chair of the FiTI International Board