



Fisheries
Transparency
Initiative

29th meeting of the FiTI International Board

3 April 2025, Conference Call

Meeting Minutes

ID: BM-29_2025_MM

Provided by: FiTI International Secretariat

Date: 29.11.2025

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Date	3 April 2025
Time	Noon – 2.00 p.m. Universal Time Coordinated (UTC)
Venue	Conference Call (Zoom)
Supporting document(s)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Information package for the determination of <i>Mauritania’s compliance status</i> (date: 27 March 2025), file: ‘Mauritania_2ndValidation.zip’
Language	The language of the FiTI International Board is English. Simultaneous translation between English and Spanish has been provided for this meeting.

Outcomes of meeting

1. Welcome and administration

The Chair of the FiTI International Board, Valeria MERINO (herein referred to as ‘Chair’), opened the 29th International Board meeting by welcoming all participating Members and Observers.

Apologies were noted prior to the meeting from Board Members Rocío Parra CORTÉS (stakeholder group: Government Sector), Hugh GOVAN (stakeholder group: Business Sector) and Ketakandriana RAFITOSON (stakeholder group: Social Sector). Rocío and Ketakandriana delegated their decision-making powers to the Chair and Hugh delegated his decision-making power to Dawda Foday SAINÉ, 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:
14.8 out of 18 votes	Yes	2 out of 3

The Chair noted that prior to this meeting, Board Members did not have concerns or anticipate contentious issues about any of the points included in this agenda.

The Chair also recalled that Alfredo SFEIR resigned from the Board on 27 March 2025 in order for him to work as a contractor for the International Secretariat, developing the new Fisheries Information System (FIS).³ The Chair expressed her gratitude for Alfredo’s commitment and dedication as a FiTI Board Member over the last 2.5 years.

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, pro-rated voting powers for this FiTI International Board meeting were determined, as shown in Appendix I.

³ The Board was informed about this decision via email by the Chair on 26 March 2025.

2. Determination of compliance status of Mauritania

The Chair recalled that validation is an essential part of the FiTI implementation process. Given that key parameters of the FiTI's validation process were already explained during the Board's 27th meeting in January 2025, the Chair focussed her opening remarks primarily on the situation in Mauritania, emphasising that during 2022-23, the FiTI conducted a first validation process of the Mauritania efforts to implement the FiTI Standard, which the Board assigned the country a compliance designation of 'meaningful progress'.⁴ The country has remained a FiTI Candidate Country⁵ since then and was expected to implement several corrective actions, as documented in the country's final Compliance Statement, with the objective of becoming a compliant country.

During its 25th meeting in July 2025, the Board tasked the International Secretariat to launch the 2nd validation process for Mauritania and determined the country's validation timeframe from April 2022 until July 2024.⁶ Furthermore, the Board appointed Mr Stefaan DEPYPERE as the Independent Validator for Mauritania in charge of conducting the second validation.⁷

The International Secretariat finalised its **Baseline Assessment Report (BAR)** for Mauritania on 25 September 2024. This assessment, as per the FiTI Standard, did not include an Overall Compliance Designation recommendation.

Mr DEPYPERE documented his findings in the **Validation Report**, which included also feedback from the Mauritania's National MSG regarding his preliminary findings (obtained during a feedback process in February 2025). The final Validation Report for Mauritania was submitted to the Chair on 28 February 2025. Both reports – the Baseline Assessment Report as well as the Validation Report – were shared with all Board Members and Observers prior to this meeting.

Furthermore, the Chair emphasised the following key characteristics a FiTI Validation Process:

- Validation should not be mistaken for a purely technical, audit-like exercise. Instead, when determining a country's level of compliance, the validation process must balance the outcomes of a detailed, evidence-based assessment of a country's performance against the individual requirements of the FiTI Standard (as outlined in

⁴ <https://fiti.global/international-board-sees-meaningful-progress-of-fiti-implementation-in-mauritania>

⁵ A country is recognised as a 'FiTI Candidate Country' after it completed the sign-up steps of the FiTI implementation process (as described in section A of the FiTI Standard) and the fulfilment of the sign-up step requirements has been assessed and approved by the FiTI International Board.

⁶ Decision [BM-25_2024_D-01]

⁷ Decision [BM-25_2024_D-02]

its sections B.1 to B.3) with the overall perception of the country's performance against the spirit of the initiative – as documented in the FiTI Principles.

- In determining a country's overall compliance designation, the Board must consider the Independent Validator's recommendations, but remain independent to reach its final decision.
- In doing so, the validation principle of 'contextual mindfulness' must be applied. The Chair emphasised that it is essential to reflect on the starting point of each country when implementing the FiTI Standard, and the need to strike a balance between ensuring that all countries are consistently held to the same global standard while considering each country's unique situation. For this, the Chair presented several key factors about Mauritania (population, GDP), the country's fisheries sector as well as information regarding Mauritania's governance framework (e.g. the country's assessment by international governance and freedom of expression indexes).

Afterwards, Mr DEPYPERE joined the Board meeting, and the Chair invited him to provide a brief overview of his main findings:

- He largely confirmed the Secretariat's Baseline Assessment Report (BAR)⁸ findings based on his own desk research and on-site visit to Mauritania (9 – 16 December 2024) and congratulated the Secretariat for preparing an excellent BAR. Mr DEPYPERE shared the list of contacts of stakeholder interviews, which were conducted either in person or online. In more detail, he emphasised that:
 - for assessment area '*Transparency Requirements*', he agreed with the Secretariat's assessment for all 12 validation requirements;
 - for assessment area '*Procedural requirements for FiTI Reports*', he agreed with the Secretariat's assessment of all 4 validation requirements; and
 - for the assessment area '*Requirements for National Implementation Framework*', he agreed with the Secretariat's assessment for 4 out of 5 validation requirements but changed the following two indicators for validation requirement 'B.3.3 Multi-Stakeholder Oversight':

⁸ The FiTI validation process (for countries that are implementing the FiTI Standard) is divided into three phases: Phase 1 is the Baseline Assessment Report; Phase 2 is the Validation Report; Phase 3 is the Compliance Statement. The Baseline Assessment Report is prepared by the FiTI International Secretariat, based on desk-research of the country's publicly available information and its published FiTI Reports (if any) at that point, but without major stakeholder consultations. The BAR establishes the starting point of a country's level of compliance with the FiTI Standard (i.e., the transparency requirements set for marine fisheries) so that subsequent progress can be measured.

- B.3.3_1 (“The government must maintain a National MSG as specified in requirement A.4.”) from Compliant to Meaningful Progress, and
- B.3.3_2 (“Representatives from government, business and organised civil society must be appropriately qualified and fully, actively and effectively engaged in the FiTI.”) from Meaningful Progress to Inadequate Progress.

Mr DEPYPERE briefly outlined his rationales for these changes. He found primarily that a lengthy interruption in the functioning of the MSG, provoked during a transition process to re-vamp and strengthen the representation of multi-stakeholder groups in the MSG made that change in the Validation scoring advisable, and referred to the Validation Report for further explanations.

- Mr DEPYPERE also confirmed that he did not consider that there were any breaches of the FiTI principles or spirit during the validation timeframe, as per section E.2.2 of the FiTI Standard.
- Mr DEPYPERE emphasised that Mauritania’s stakeholders see the FiTI process as a driver towards good governance and that the annual publication of FiTI Reports had increased the level of access to fisheries information. Stakeholders also noted positively the efforts made by Mauritania’s Government to adhere to the FiTI. At the same time, he noted that the current progress in Mauritania seems to rely significantly on the involvement of the FiTI International Secretariat as a permanent process driver as well as the Report Compiler. A more autonomous process would be appropriate (internalising the process).
- Based on these findings, Mr DEPYPERE stated that his overall recommendation for Mauritania is ‘Meaningful Progress’, as the country is not yet into the “compliance domain”. He further stated that one could foresee that the country might approach the level of compliance if the present plan of the authorities were to be followed in practice. This would entail endowing the National MSG with sufficient resources to operate and increasing the number of meetings of the National MSG to a meaningful level. Furthermore, he recommended improving the quality of the website and endowing the statistical service of the MPEM with the required resource base.

The Chair thanked Mr DEPYPERE for his thorough overview of the independent validation process and report. Afterwards, the participants asked the Independent Validator a number of questions, among them:

- Regarding the flagging and reflagging of foreign vessels, and their alignment under Mauritania’s national or foreign access regime. Mr DEPYPERE stated that currently there are two vessel registries – one from the *Direction Générale Exploitation des Ressources Halieutiques* (DGERH) and one from the *Agence Mauritanienne de*

Navigation Maritime (AMAM) – and that more efforts are needed to merge these two registers into a single register for national and foreign vessels.

- Concerning the current status of the National MSG, given that there was a significant jurisdiction transition phase, moving the responsibility for the national FiTI implementation as leading authority between two Ministries, signifying in practice almost “a new beginning” for the process. Mr DEPYPERE stated that the National MSG is comprising now of 15 representatives, equally distributed among government, business and civil society. He further noted that due to the long transition period, as was explained to him and based on the information he was able to gather, meetings of the National MSG had become irregular if not inexistent, but at the end of the reporting period, started to increase again. He remarked that after his validation visit in December 2024, two more MSG meetings took place, which could be seen as a sign that the MSG activity was normalizing. Also, the fact that the budget and workplan had been approved was an encouraging sign.

For the **third and final phase**, the Chair recalled that the Board must make a final determination:

- whether the individual requirements of the FiTI Standard have been met or not;
- whether any breach of the principles or the spirit of the FiTI – in accordance with section E.2.2 of the FiTI Standard – has occurred;
- regarding the implementing country’s overall compliance designation in accordance with section D.1.2 of the FiTI Standard (see below); and
- regarding corrective actions (if applicable).

To support the decision-making process, the Chair emphasised that a Validation Committee (comprising the Chair and Board Members Joacim JOHANNESON and Ketakandriana RAFITOSON) has been established, which reviewed the assessments and recommendations documented in the Independent Validation Report in detail.

Based on the Committee’s analysis, the Chair noted that there is agreement with the Independent Validator’s assessment regarding 19 of the 21 individual validation requirements. However, the Chair stated that the Committee held a different view from the Validator’s assessment of one transparency requirement (i.e. ‘Fisheries Subsidies’) as well as one requirement for the national implementation framework (i.e. ‘Multi-Stakeholder Oversight’).

Validation requirement B.1.10 ‘Fisheries subsidies’:

The Validation Committee recommended to adjust the **Validation score of** indicator B.1.10_1 (“The government must publish information on the type, values and recipients of government financial transfers or subsidies to the fisheries sector”) from **‘meaningful progress’ to ‘not applicable’** and consequently change the overall score for validation requirement B.1.10 ‘Fisheries Subsidies’ to ‘not applicable’ due to the following reasons:

- The Validator stated in his Report that the government cannot report any information under this requirement since the government has stopped providing subsidies to the fisheries sector. Further, the Validator informed that a Fuel Price Equalisation Fund⁹ is managed by the National Federation of Fisheries (FNP) and financed by a levy on exports. The agreement to implement this mechanism is publicly available, but not the value of funds redistributed. Therefore, the Validator (as well as the FiTI International Secretariat) scored this requirement as ‘meaningful progress’. The Validator explained that – even though the government does not consider this scheme a subsidy – he did assess this scheme as such. Indeed, under the rules of the OECD, it would likely be considered a subsidy. However, the Validation Committee acknowledged that there is a wide divergence about the *parameters that determine what a subsidy is* and is not.

As the FiTI Standard does not impose a definition regarding subsidies, the Committee accepted the assertion of the Government that it no longer provides subsidies to the fisheries sector, and accepted the definition of the Mauritanian government in this regard. Furthermore, the government’s decision has been clearly described in several of Mauritania’s annual FiTI Reports and has not been questioned by the National MSG. It was also emphasised that while different stakeholders may interpret this situation differently (i.e. whether the support by FNP should be seen as a form of indirect government transfer) the National MSG published information about this situation on its website, including the actual agreement.¹⁰

⁹ Regarding Mauritania's Fuel Price Equalization Fund, the government can absorb fluctuations in global fuel prices by using the fund, allowing the country to keep domestic prices stable. This means that when international oil prices rise, the government can step in to prevent equivalent increases at the pump, effectively subsidising the fuel cost for consumers. This helps to shield the population from price shocks and promotes economic stability.

¹⁰ https://www.fiti-mauritanie.mr/wp-content/uploads/2024/09/Convention_carburant_Peche-du-29-06-2022.pdf

Validation requirement B.3.3 ‘Multi-Stakeholder Oversight’:

The **Validation Committee** recommended the adjustments of the following two validation scores for

- **Indicator B.3.3_1**, from ‘meaningful progress’ to ‘compliant’, and
- **Indicator B.3.3_2**, from ‘inadequate process’ to ‘meaningful progress’.

Validation Indicator B.3.3 1 (“The government must maintain a National MSG as specified in requirement A.4”).

The FiTI National MSG continues to comprise 15 representatives, equally distributed among representatives from the government, business and civil society stakeholder groups. In his report, the Independent Validator stated that Mauritania’s National MSG is currently functioning in accordance with this requirement (e.g. “15 representatives equally distributed among Government, Business and Civil society”). The Validator pointed out that there had been “a very long interruption related to the transition between the old and the new MSG,” which seemed to have influenced the scoring for this indicator.

The Committee noted that the Validator had based his decision not only on issues related to the composition of the MSG (as required under this indicator), but also on issues related to the group’s operational functioning (which should be assessed under indicator B.3.3_2). Given that the government of Mauritania maintained a National MSG throughout the entire period under validation with a composition in line with the FiTI Standard – despite facing delays in the transition from one FiTI Lead Ministry to another, and the subsequent delayed appointment of a new FiTI National Lead – the Validation Committee made the unanimous decision to recommend to the FiTI Board increasing the scoring of this indicator from ‘meaningful progress’ to ‘compliant’.

The Committee’s recommendation was further substantiated by the fact that in Mauritania’s first Validation Compliance Statement (issued by the FiTI International Board on the 24th of March of 2023), the Board requested several corrective actions in relation to this issue. The Validation Committee acknowledged that Mauritanian’s government acted swiftly on several occasions. For example, in March 2023, the Board requested that changes in the composition of the National MSG to be made by the end of October 2023. At that time, the government – unknown to the Board – had already renewed the National MSG, upon the recommendation of the then Validator. It was confirmed that the government acted immediately after receiving such recommendation, and the renewal took place in January 2023.

Validation indicator B.3.3 2 (“Representatives from government, business and organised civil society must be appropriately qualified and fully, actively and effectively engaged in the FiTI.”)

The Independent Validator argued that the National MSG members are well-qualified and have contributed valuable ideas, particularly related to transparency and its application. However, the main issues identified were the long transition period between the two Ministries (and the subsequent delay in appointing a FiTI National Lead and Chair of the National MSG) as well as the low frequency of formal meetings. The Validator stated that during the validation timeframe, the National MSG has primarily met to validate reports, and some members were unaware of their status or replacements due to a transitional period.

While the Validator acknowledged that the National MSG appears to be on more stable ground now, regular meetings and proper resourcing are crucial for its effectiveness in promoting good governance. He recommended creating a workplan, replacing inactive members, and further utilising observers, such as international development organisations.

The Validation Committee held a different view from the Validator’s scoring of ‘inadequate progress’ for this indicator, and made the unanimous decision to increase the scoring to ‘meaningful progress’, based on the following considerations:

- The FiTI Lead Ministry and appointing a new FiTI National Lead impacted the renewal and effective operation of the National MSG. However, the transition process to a new FiTI Lead and the appointment of new National MSG members must take into consideration a country’s context (following the validation principle of ‘contextual mindfulness’). Transferring the FiTI Lead Ministry from the Ministry of Finance to the Ministry of Fisheries and Maritime Economy was necessary to ensure stronger institutional engagement with the initiative. Over time, it became evident that the Ministry of Finance, which was renamed the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Promotion of Productive Sectors (MEPSP) in March 2021, was not able to prioritise the FiTI enough, whereas the Ministry of Fisheries had a more direct and obvious commitment. However, such a transition was complex due to the administrative and legal complications related to transferring responsibilities from one ministry to another. This process, which involved two key government institutions, was ultimately completed in July 2022 through the joint decree 0734 MEPSP/MPPEM, which also redefined the composition of the National MSG to ensure a more effective and representative structure.

With the institutional framework in place, renewing the National MSG commenced in January 2023. Despite the challenges of restructuring, the appointment process for representatives from government, business, and civil society progressed swiftly and

was completed within the same month. This efficiency signalled strong stakeholder commitment and the government's determination to ensure continuity in FiTI's implementation. The election process followed the FiTI Standard and complied with national regulations governing the composition of the National MSG. However, while the National MSG was fully reconstituted early in 2023, the appointment of a new FiTI National Lead (given that this person must come from the FiTI Lead Ministry, which was no longer the MEPSP but the Ministry of Fisheries), remained pending. Identifying a suitable candidate within the Ministry of Fisheries took longer than anticipated, as the ministry was short-staffed, and the available personnel had varied professional qualifications. The selection process required careful deliberation to ensure that the appointed individual had the expertise to lead FiTI activities effectively.

During this period, broader political developments also affected institutional decision-making. Legislative elections in May 2023, including the election campaign period, significantly impacted the functioning of public offices, as is common in many countries. The Ministry of Fisheries experienced personnel changes, including the appointment of a new Minister in July 2023, which further affected the pace of decision-making. By November 2023, the FiTI National Lead was appointed, finalising the leadership structure. Although this appointment was delayed, it was crucial to secure a qualified and engaged leader that is fully committed to FiTI's long-term success.

Furthermore, the National MSG appointed a Vice-chair from the Civil Society stakeholder group for the first time, reinforcing the National MSG's inclusive governance.

- Despite these political transitions, the Validation Committee assessed that the newly composed National MSG remained active and operational, ensuring that FiTI activities continued without major interruption. During the validation period, the National MSG met ten times, including five formal National MSG meetings and five additional informal meetings, such as workshops and stakeholder engagement sessions. This demonstrated a higher level of engagement than before the groups' reorganisation. The Committee also recognised that key decisions, such as approving the Terms of Reference (ToR) for the Report Compiler, were efficiently implemented.
- Furthermore, the National Secretariat prepared a draft National MSG Action Plan, which was validated during the FiTI and Regional Partnership for Coastal and Marine Conservation (PRCM) mission in Mauritania. This plan was finalised with active participation from the National MSG and submitted to the Minister to explore funding.

The Validation Committee clearly acknowledged that, despite the adequate composition of the National MSG and the qualifications of its members, evidence shows that several members remain inactive or not fully engaged.

Given the importance of multi-stakeholder oversight in FiTI implementation – and in response to a corrective action from the first validation – several issues have been addressed by the FiTI National Lead, the National Secretariat, and the National MSG during this validation period, such as:

- **Adjusting the composition of the National MSG based on stakeholder analysis:** The National Secretariat conducted an analysis to identify organisations relevant to sustainable maritime fisheries in Mauritania that were not yet represented in the National MSG. As a result, new organisations were admitted, in accordance with Joint Decree No. 0734 of 29 July 2022, which outlines the general composition of the National MSG.
- **Procedures for the appointment and replacement of National MSG Members:** Given the number of civil society organisations and professionals in the sector, the National MSG opted for representation through national federations affiliated with the Mauritanian Employer’s Association. To invite new members, written requests were sent to these federations, asking them to designate representatives to the National MSG. This led to five new appointments, while other organisations reappointed their existing representatives. The correspondence is published on the National MSG website.
- **Possibility of rotating the Chair of the National MSG:** Article 4 of the Joint Decree No. 0734 of 29 July 2022 and Article 7 of the National MSG ToR defines that the FiTI National Lead serves also as the Chair of the National MSG. As a result, the MSG considered that rotating the Chair was not feasible from a regulatory standpoint. Additionally, the National MSG noted that, procedurally, a Chair from outside the public administration group would face challenges in convening representatives from other government agencies. However, in line with Article 7 of the ToR, a Vice-Chair (Mr Cheikhany), representing the Civil Society stakeholder group, was appointed by consensus at a recent National MSG meeting. This has been made public on the National MSG website.
- **Invitation of observers:** The National MSG acknowledged that the number of permanent observers is set at five (in accordance with Article 3 of Decree No. 90). However, only four permanent observers are currently participating. While the National MSG has approved the possibility of inviting international development organisations and partners to meetings to share their expertise, it remains to be seen whether this will be implemented in practice.

The Chair stated that the Validation Committee's recommendation to adjust the indicators B.3.3_1 and B.3.3_2 **would also result in the overall compliance designation for validation requirement B.3.3 ('Multi-Stakeholder Oversight') becoming 'compliant'.**

The Chair concluded by stating that the Validation Committee's recommendation to the Board is to grant Mauritania the status of a 'FiTI Compliant country.'

After a brief discussion, the participating Board Members reached the following decisions by consensus:

Decision [BM-29_2025_D-01]:

The International Board determined that Mauritania achieved an overall 'Compliant' status in implementing the FiTI Standard during the validation timeframe (April 2022 - July 2024).

Furthermore, the International Board tasked the Validation Committee with drafting and approving the International Board's Compliance Statement, which will be made publicly available afterwards.

The International Board also requested that the Secretariat and Mauritania's National MSG actively and publicly disseminate the outcomes of the validation process so that the findings and recommendations can contribute to public debate. Furthermore, the Secretariat was tasked to schedule a meeting with Mauritania's national authorities to discuss the Board's Compliance Statement and future steps.

After the decision was taken, the Chair stated that the result of this validation made Mauritania the second country to achieve 'compliant' status with the FiTI Standard, and congratulated Mauritania on this very significant accomplishment, which demonstrates that all necessary aspects of the validation requirements have been met for the period under validation.

The Chair noted further that this achievement reflects the country's sustained commitment to fisheries transparency, which has elicited a positive response, not only within the fisheries sector but also more broadly. She expressed her hope that Mauritania, inspired by this significant result, will maintain and reinforce its efforts to strengthen and institutionalise its fisheries sector transparency and participatory governance further, thus ensuring that the country's compliant status in the FiTI is retained over time.

3. 2025 membership election for the FiTI association

The Chair recalled that with Board Circular No. 10, the Board approved 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.¹¹ Only time-bound parameters, such as the number of vacant membership seats or milestones of the election process, will be adjusted.

As of today, several Board membership seats are currently vacant and for a considerable number of members, their first term is ending during 2025, as shown below:

Stakeholder group	Vacant membership seats
Government sector	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 2 membership seats currently vacant. ▪ 3 current members whose 1st term ends during 2025: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Annicka MACKENSEN: 22 May 2025, eligible for re-election. ○ Roy CLARISSE: 31 December 2025, eligible for re-election. ○ Joacim JOHANNESSON: 31 December 2025, eligible for re-election.
Business sector	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 1 membership seat [LSF] currently vacant. ▪ 1 current member whose 1st term ends during 2025: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Tony LAZAZZARA [LSF]: 31 December 2025, eligible for re-election.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 1 current member whose 1st term ends during 2025: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Dawda Foday SAINE [SSF]: 31 December 2025, eligible for re-election.
Social sector	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 2 membership seats currently vacant. ▪ 1 current member whose 1st term ends during 2025: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Annie TOURETTE: 31 December 2025, eligible for re-election.

The Chair recommended that the election process for 2025 should be implemented in **two phases**:

- The *first phase*, spanning from April 1st to June 30th, will focus on the re-election of Board members whose term expire before May 31st, as well as the election of

¹¹ <https://fiti.global/fiti-international-board> [Decision ID: BC-10_2022_D-03].

members to fill vacant seats resulting from nominations, referrals or strategic decisions.

- The *second phase*, which will be publicly announced, is scheduled to begin on July 1st and will end on November 15th. The second part will focus on the re-election of Board members and the election of new members for the remaining vacant seats. Hence, as the Board discusses the re-election of a group of members, the FiTI will have the opportunity to start receiving candidacies for members to be elected in the second half of the year, if needed .

The Chair also emphasised that Board Members whose term on the Board ends on December 31st, 2025, are requested to submit an email to the Chair by June 25th, confirming their interest to serve an additional 3-year term on the Board and that the organisation that submitted their original nomination continues to support their serving on the Board for a second term.

The participating Board Members reached the following decision by consensus:

Decision [BM-29_2025_D-02]:

The International Board agreed to task the FiTI Chair to conduct a process for recommending new Board members to the FiTI Board as described during this meeting. This decision includes that the FiTI Chair should form and facilitate a Board Election Committee, which may include members from outside the Board but not from the Secretariat. This may be required, as a considerable number of members are up for re-election in 2025

4. Closing & Outlook for next Board meeting in Berlin

The Chair recalled that she already informed the Board via email that the two-day in-person Board Meeting will be held on Thursday, 5 June, and Friday, 6 June (both full days) in Berlin, Germany. This Board meeting is preceded by a 10th anniversary event on Wednesday, 4 June 2025 (approx. 2 hours, late afternoon), also in Berlin. She concluded the meeting by expressing her delight of meeting Board Members and Observers in person soon.

The 29th International Board Meeting ended.

Meeting minutes **provided** by:



Mr Sven Biermann

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

Roy CLARISSE [Voting power for this meeting: 1.2 votes]

Joacim JOHANNESON [Voting power for this meeting: 1.2 votes]

Estelle JONES [Voting power for this meeting: 1.2 votes]

Excused:

Rocío Parra CORTÉS¹²

Not excused:

Annika MACKENSEN

Stakeholder group: Business sector

Tony LAZZARA [Voting power for this meeting: 1.0 vote]

Nestor ROCHE [Voting power for this meeting: 1.0 vote]

Dawda Foday SAINE [Voting power for this meeting: 2.0 vote]

Excused:

Hugh GOVAN¹³

Not excused:

Carlos (Cadu) VILLAÇA

Stakeholder group: Social sector

Daniel SKERRITT [Voting power for this meeting: 1.5 vote]

Annie TOURETTE [Voting power for this meeting: 1.5 vote]

Umair SHAHID [Voting power for this meeting: 1.5 vote]

¹² Rocío Parra CORTÉS delegated her decision-making power to the Chair via email on April 2nd, 2025.

¹³ Hugh GOVAN delegated his decision-making power to Dawda Foday SAINE via email on March 27th, 2025.

Excused:

Ketakandriana RAFITOSON¹⁴

Observers

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

World Bank Group, represented by Kristin Gunnarsdottir VON KISTOWSKI

Not excused:

Open Government Partnership

FiTI International Secretariat

Sven BIERMANN

Dorothea GARFF

Karine YOUNG

Guests

Stefaan DEPYPERE, Independent Validator

Luz MONTALVAN, Interpreter

¹⁴ Ketakandriana RAFITOSON delegated her decision-making power to the Chair via email on April 2nd, 2025.