



Fisheries
Transparency
Initiative

FiTI Board Circular

Board Circular No. 28

ID: BC-28_2026

Requested by: FiTI Chair

Submitted by: FiTI International Secretariat

Submitted on: 20.08.2026

Decided on: 31.08.2026

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 approve the formal request from the Ministry of Fisheries and Maritime Economy of Guinea (MPEM) – received on 17 August 2026 via email – to adjust the deadline for submitting the country’s implementation application to the FiTI International Board from 31 August 2026 to 30 November 2026.

Decision required

In January 2026, the FiTI launched an updated version of the [FiTI Standard](#) (v2.0), the first major update since the Standard’s initial release in April 2017. The updated Standard includes several enhancements, including improvements to the national implementation process. One such improvement is the clear provision of implementation milestones for countries.¹

During its 33rd meeting in February 2026, the International Board determined, inter alia, that the new deadline for **Guinea** – as a FiTI Committed Country – to submit its implementation application to the Board is 31 August 2026 (Decision [BM-33_2026_D04]).²

In accordance with the updated FiTI Standard, failing to adhere to these new implementation milestones *“will result in an automatic suspension (section I.2.1), unless otherwise determined by the FiTI International Board”* (section I.1.1).³

On 17 August 2026, the International Secretariat’s Regional Coordinator for Francophone Africa, Mr Mansor Ndour, received an official request from the Hon. Minister Fatima Camara, MPEM, to

¹ For example, in the previous FiTI Standard (v1.1) there was no specific timeframe until when a committed country needs to implement the sign-up steps and reach the status of a FiTI Candidate Country. Therefore, countries may have been associated with the FiTI as a committed country for too long.

² Guinea joined the FiTI in November 2022 (<https://fiti.global/guinea-commits-to-implement-the-fiti>).

³ According to section I.2.1 of the FiTI Standard *“Suspension of a country is a temporary mechanism. The country will have up to 12 months to address the reasons for suspension, as determined by the FiTI International Board. During the period of suspension, a country will have the status “Suspended”*. If a country has been subject to suspension, and the matter has not been resolved to the satisfaction of the FiTI International Board within the given timeframe, the country will be delisted from the initiative.

adjust the deadline for Guinea submitting its Implementing Country application by three months, from 31 August to **30 November 2026**.

In her letter, which is attached to this Circular as a supporting document (in French), Minister Camara reaffirms the Government's commitment to the FiTI, but explains that a substantial restructuring of the government administration (including the adoption of new organisational decrees only completed in June 2026) delayed the establishment of the institutional mechanisms required to complete the necessary requirements for an enabling environment under the FiTI Standard (section C). While the Decree for establishing Guinea's National Multi-Stakeholder Group (MSG) has now been drafted and is proceeding through the interministerial approval process, the Government considers its adoption before 31 August unlikely. The additional three months would therefore be used to determine the most suitable approach for establishing the National MSG⁴, formally operationalise the necessary institutional arrangements for the National MSG, and complete the remaining steps to submit a FiTI Implementing Country application to the Board before end of November 2026.

The letter from the Minister also shows (in the letter's annex) that concrete progress has been made over the last few weeks, with Mr Ahmed Sekou Keita, Chief of Cabinet of the Ministry, now being formally appointed as Guinea's FiTI National Focal Point, responsible for overseeing and following up on the FiTI implementation in Guinea. His appointment was made official through the Ministerial Order A/2026/624, signed on 27 July 2026 (shortly after Minister Camara resumed her position, see next paragraph).

Furthermore, the International Secretariat would like to emphasise the significant changes at the ministerial level in Guinea over the last 12 months, which it believes should be taken into account by the Board in determining its decision. Most notably, Mr Fassou Théa replaced Ms Fatima Camara as Minister of Fisheries and Maritime Economy in July 2025 and was reconfirmed in that position in February 2026, before a wider governmental reshuffle in late July 2026 saw Minister Camara return to her previous portfolio. These changes coincided with the period during which Guinea was working to finalise its institutional arrangements for the FiTI, although the Ministry's letter attributes the delays more broadly to the restructuring of government institutions.

It is also noted that while section I.1.1 of the FiTI Standard ('Non-Adherence to Deadlines') states that failing to meet implementation deadlines results in an automatic suspension, the FiTI Standard gives the Board discretion to divert from this automatic suspension process in exceptional circumstances (*"Non-adherence to these deadlines will result in an automatic suspension (section I.2.1), unless otherwise determined by the FiTI International Board."*)

⁴ It is currently being discussed within the Ministry whether to utilise the – still to be fully formalised – National Council for Fisheries, Aquaculture and Maritime Economy as the country's National MSG, or whether to establish another suitable collaboration mechanism (<https://fiti.global/guinea-tasks-cnpaem-to-act-as-fiti-national-msg>).

Decision required_#1: Does the FiTI International Board approve the request from the Ministry of Fisheries and Maritime Economy in Guinea to adjust the deadline for submission of the country's FiTI Implementing Country application from 31 August 2026 to 30 November 2026?

Deadline to reply to this Board Circular

Eligible Board Members must reply to this Board Circular no later than **Friday, 28 August 2026**, in writing (via email) and cannot assign a proxy.

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.

While **no apparent conflict of interest** has been determined for this Board Circular, 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.

Therefore, the pro-rated voting powers for this 28th Board Circular of the FiTI International Board are as follows:

Stakeholder group	Number of voting members	Voting power per member
Government sector	4	1.5
Business sector	5	1.2
Social sector	6	1.0

Each decision is approved if at least 13.5 votes support a decision, including two members from each stakeholder group.

Results protocol: Approval / Denial of Circular

This Board Circular was sent on 20 August 2026 to all eligible Board Members via email. The following results were recorded:

Name:	Stakeholder Group:	Sent on:	Responded on:	Decision: Approval?	Voting power:
Roy Clarisse	Government sector	20.08.2026			
Joacim Johanneson	Government sector	20.08.2026	20.08.2026	Yes	1.5
Estelle Jones	Government sector	20.08.2026	20.08.2026	Yes	1.5
Annika Mackensen	Government sector	20.08.2026	20.08.2026	Yes	1.5
Hugh Govan	Business sector	20.08.2026	20.08.2026	Yes	1.2
Tony Lazazzara	Business sector	20.08.2026	20.08.2026	Yes	1.2
Néstor Roche	Business sector	20.08.2026	20.08.2026	Yes	1.2
Dawda Foday Saine	Business sector	20.08.2026			
Carlos (Cadu) Villaça	Business sector	20.08.2026	20.08.2026	Yes	1.2
Sophie Benbow	Social sector	20.08.2026	21.08.2026	Yes	1.0
Alfred Bulakali Nkuru	Social sector	20.08.2026	20.08.2026	Yes	1.0
Tymon Kiepe	Social sector	20.08.2026	24.08.2026	Yes	1.0
Ketakandriana Rafitoson	Social sector	20.08.2026			
Daniel Skerritt	Social sector	20.08.2026	25.08.2026	Yes	1.0
Annie Tourette	Social sector	20.08.2026	26.08.2026	Yes	1.0

Approval of Circular - Rule I: At least 13.5 votes in favour of supporting the decision:

Approval of Circular - Rule II: At least 2x 'Yes' from stakeholder group 'Government':

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

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

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

Decision [BC-28_2026_D-01]:

The International Board approved the request from the Ministry of Fisheries and Maritime Economy in Guinea to adjust the deadline for submission of the country's FiTI Implementing Country application from 31 August 2026 to 30 November 2026.

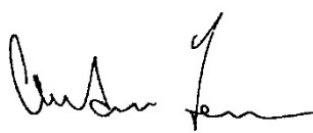
Board Circular **provided** by:



Mr Sven Biermann

Secretary of the Board Circular; Executive Director
of the FiTI International Secretariat

Board Circular **approved** by:



Mr Audun Lem, PhD

Chair of the FiTI International Board