



Fisheries  
Transparency  
Initiative

# 5<sup>th</sup> International Advisory Group meeting

09 November 2016, Gothenburg / Sweden

## Meeting Report

Prepared by

HUMBOLDT-VIADRINA Governance Platform

Date: 7 February 2017

This initiative is supported by the Islamic Republic of Mauritania.



<b>Title</b>	<b>5<sup>th</sup> International Advisory Group meeting of the Fisheries Transparency Initiative</b>
<b>Date</b>	Wednesday, 9 November 2016
<b>Time</b>	09.00 a.m. – 5.30 p.m.
<b>Venue</b>	Quality Hotel 11 Maskingatan 11, 41764 Gothenburg Gothenburg, Sweden
<b>Hosted by</b>	Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management (SwAM), with the financial assistance of the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida)
<b>Conducted by</b>	HUMBOLDT-VIADRINA Governance Platform*
<b>List of participants</b>	Please refer to Appendix I
<b>Agenda of the meeting</b>	Please refer to Appendix II
<b>Input<sup>1</sup></b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Preparatory Information</li> <li>• Report on the discussions of the task force (28.10.2016): “Report on the disclosure of per vessel catch data”</li> <li>• Guidance Note for countries intending to implement the FiTI – The sign up steps (Version 0.85 EN / FR)</li> </ul>
<b>Additional presentations</b>	Report by Pilot Countries: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Indonesia</li> <li>• Mauritania</li> <li>• Seychelles</li> </ul>

**\*About the HUMBOLDT-VIADRINA Governance Platform gGmbH**

The HUMBOLDT-VIADRINA Governance Platform is a non-profit limited liability company; its profits are used for charitable purposes only. The organization is based in Berlin/Germany.

The HUMBOLDT-VIADRINA aims to advance democratic processes and smart governance strategies in Germany, Europe and the world, and advance cooperation between government, business and civil society while including academia and the media. Through this deliberative exchange of ideas, it helps to create a mutual understanding for sustainable democratic politics and ultimately strengthens the level of transparency, democratic participation and accountability of citizens.

<http://www.governance-platform.org>

<sup>1</sup> Input and additional presentations are available on the FiTI Website.



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	FisheriesTI
	Fisheries Transparency Initiative (FITI)

## WELCOME REMARKS AND ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Mr. Peter EIGEN, Chair of the International Advisory Group of the FiTI, opened the meeting by welcoming all participants. More than 30 representatives of governments (incl. representatives from pilot countries Indonesia, Mauritania, and the Seychelles), international organizations, companies and civil society organizations from all over the world accepted the invitation of the FiTI International Secretariat.

Mr. EIGEN thanked the Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management for hosting the meeting.

On behalf of the Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management's Director, General, Dr. Jakob GRANIT Ms. Gunilla Tegelskär GREIG, Senior Analyst, welcomed the participants especially those representatives from the pilot implementing countries of Indonesia, Mauritania and the Seychelles. Ms. GREIG conveyed Dr. GRANIT's pleasure in the Agency's being able to host this meeting with the financial support of the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency. She also stated that while Dr. GRANIT regretted not being able to participate in the meeting, he had been delighted to be given the opportunity to liaise with many of the meeting participants at the dinner he had hosted on the eve of the event.

Ms. GREIG recalled that transparency is high on the international fisheries agenda and reminded the meeting participants that the resumed Review Conference of the United Nations Fish Stocks Agreement<sup>2</sup> in May this year had recommended that States and regional economic integration organizations encourage greater transparency regarding fisheries access agreements as well as fishing capacity. She also recalled that there were also proposals to reflect these two recommendations in next year's UN General Assembly Resolution on Sustainable Fisheries, the consultation on which was currently ongoing. Ms. GREIG concluded her welcoming remarks by pointing out that the work of FiTI supports the implementation of SDG 14 and recalled Sweden's and the Government of Fiji's co-hosting the High-level UN Conference to Support the Implementation of SDG14 on 5-9 June 2017.

Mr. Peter EIGEN thanked Ms. Gunilla GREIG for her welcome address.

Mr. EIGEN highlighted that the group has already been collaborating for over a year and is now meeting for the 5<sup>th</sup> time. A lot has been achieved so far and this meeting is to take the final decisions needed to be able to finalize the global FiTI Standard. He expressed the expectation that this would be the last meeting before adopting the global FiTI Standard at the 2<sup>nd</sup> International Conference of the FiTI in Bali / Indonesia – kindly hosted by the Government of Indonesia.

<sup>2</sup> The United Nations Agreement for the Implementation of the Provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 10 December 1982 relating to the Conservation and Management of Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks

Mr. EIGEN highlighted the ongoing strong commitment of the Mauritanian Government – especially by the Ministry of Economy and Finance and by the Ministry of Fisheries and Maritime Economy – to the initiative. He also thanked the representatives from the other pilot implementing countries for their countries’ commitment and support to the initiative.

He also thanked representatives from civil society, small-scale and large-scale fisheries, donors and other experts for their strong commitment and engagement towards the common goal of increasing transparency and participation in fisheries.

Mr. **Mohamed Salem NANY**, Director of Resource Mobilization and External Aid Coordination at the Ministry of Economy and Finance of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania excused the Minister of Economy and Finance, H.E. EL Moctar OULD DJAY as well as the Director General of the Ministry, Mr. Abass SYLLA for not being able to attend the meeting. On behalf of the Director General, Mr. NANY thanked the Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management for hosting this 5th International Advisory Group meeting of the FiTI. Mr. NANY also thanked the International FiTI Secretariat for the progress made as well as Prof. Dr. Peter Eigen for his commitment to the initiative. He emphasized that the priority of the meeting is now to build on this progress to pave the way to FiTI implementation

After recalling the importance of fisheries in Mauritania, reason which originally motivated the President of the Republic of Mauritania H.E. Mohammed Ould Abdel AZIZ to launch an initiative to increase transparency in fisheries, Mr. NANY also shared some of the last developments undertaken by Mauritania in the framework of the FiTI, in particular the launch of the process of establishing a FiTI National Multi-Stakeholder Group in the country. Mr. NANY emphasized the importance for Mauritania to show leadership in completing all the sign-up steps to officially become a FiTI Candidate country, thereby fulfilling the commitment made by the Mauritanian President at the 1<sup>st</sup> International Conference of the FiTI. He thanked all the institutions supporting Mauritania in the FiTI process, including the Arab Fund for Economic & Social Development, the World Bank and the African Development Bank. Mr. NANY also reemphasized that the FiTI requires financial support to ensure its long-term sustainability, for countries seeking to implement the FiTI as well as for the International Secretariat. He recalled in that regard the 1<sup>st</sup> Donors Roundtable of the FiTI, which was organized by the World Bank in October 2016 at the occasion of the World Bank annual meetings with the objective to secure the provision of long-term funding for the FiTI and thanked the World Bank for organizing this meeting. He conveyed the expectation of the Mauritanian Government that other donors will follow the Mauritanian example by committing as well to supporting the initiative financially, hereby ensuring a sustainable continuation of the promising investments made.

Mr. NANY concluded by thanking all participants and wishing them success for the meeting.

*The entire speech of Mr. NANY can be downloaded at “Conceptual Phase -> International Advisory Group -> Advisory Group Meeting – October 2016”*

The proposed agenda for the meeting was adopted by all participants.

Mr. **Sven BIERMANN**, Director of the Fisheries Transparency Initiative, outlined the agenda and the major objectives of the meeting:

1. Provide an update on the **current status**;
2. Present the progress achieved by **pilot implementing countries of the FiTI: Indonesia, Mauritania and the Seychelles**;
3. Discuss and agree on **recommendations on FiTI reporting**;
4. Discuss and agree on **recommendations on FiTI processes**;
5. Discuss and agree on **the transition from the conceptual phase to the implementation phase** in 2017;
6. Define the **next steps** towards the 2<sup>nd</sup> International Conference of the FiTI.

Mr. BIERMANN emphasized that it is currently envisioned that this meeting will be the last one before the official transition from the current conceptual phase to the regular implementation phase (expected to start in May 2017).

He also indicated that, based on the outcomes of this meeting, the drafting of the official FiTI Standard is scheduled to start in December 2016.

#### UPDATE: STATUS OF THE INITIATIVE

Mr. **BIERMANN** gave an update on the current status of the initiative. Three major activities have been conducted since the 4<sup>th</sup> International Advisory Group meeting in Madrid:

- i) Continue defining the FiTI Standard;
- ii) Continue reaching out to stakeholders; and
- iii) Discuss the sustainability of the initiative.

#### **i) Continue defining the FiTI Standard:**

In order to establish the global FiTI Standard, the definition of the FiTI reporting scope and process needs to be finalized. For this, the International Secretariat established:

- **A Guidance Note for countries intending to implement the FiTI process – The Sign-up Steps** (Version: 0.85)
- **A Report on the disclosure of per vessel catch data**

- **Preparatory information for the 5<sup>th</sup> Advisory Group** covering remaining recommendations on the transparency elements, the process of FiTI reporting and the transition from the Conceptual Phase to the Implementation Phase

These documents are the foundation for the discussions and decisions of the 5<sup>th</sup> International Advisory Group meeting.

*Documents are available for download on the FiTI website.*

#### **ii) Continue reaching out to stakeholders:**

Together with pilot countries and with strong support of participants of the International Advisory Group, the FiTI International Secretariat conducted several communication activities since the 4<sup>th</sup> International Advisory Group meeting, most notably:

- **Official side event at 32<sup>nd</sup> COFI in Rome / Italy on 14 July 2016** “From transparency to accountability – How credible information supports responsible fisheries”. The multi-stakeholder panel included government representatives from Indonesia (Mr. Mas Achmad SANTOSA) and the Seychelles (Mr. Philippe MICHAUD), a business representative from the Russian Ship-owner Association in West-Africa (Mr. Alexander BIRYUKOV) and a civil society representative from OCEANA (Ms. María José CORNAX).
- Presentation of the FiTI at the panel “Country experiences in fighting related and associated crime in fisheries sector” at the **OECD-UNODC-FAO Conference “Combating Tax Crimes and other crimes in the fisheries sector”, 13-14 October in Paris / France**. Participants of the conference highlighted the importance of beneficial ownership transparency to prevent, investigate and forfeit illegal proceeds of fisheries crime. The FiTI Secretariat discussed associated implementation challenges and opportunities.
- The International FiTI Secretariat also reached out to a large diversity of stakeholders throughout the world:
  - Consortium for Ocean Leadership (Mr. Jon White)
  - University of British Columbia – Sea Around Us (Ms. Dyhia Belhabib)
  - SONAPESCA (Mr. Francisco Orrego)
  - Various government stakeholders in Chile and Peru
  - Flinders University/Australia (Prof. Dr. Adam Graycar)
  - EITI National Secretariat in Sao Tomé e Príncipe (Mr. José Cardoso)
  - Marine Stewardship Council (Mr. Paul Houseman)
  - World Ocean Council (Mr. Paul Holthus)

**Discuss the sustainability of the initiative:**

- Mr. BIERMANN emphasized that the development of the FiTI has since the beginning of the conceptual phase been funded by the Islamic Republic of Mauritania and that with the conceptual phase now coming to an end, funding is also running out. He therefore highlighted the urgent need to find solutions to fund the implementation of the FiTI, which will start in May 2017. This includes funding for FiTI implementation at the national level as well as for the International Secretariat.

A funding outline was therefore prepared by the International Secretariat to identify the resources required for the Implementation phase.

The Funding Outline was presented and discussed at the **1<sup>st</sup> Donor Roundtable, which was organized by the World Bank at the Annual Meetings of the IFC / World Bank** (Washington D.C., 7 October 2016) upon request of the Government of Mauritania and the Seychelles. The roundtable was very well attended by potential donors and interested implementing countries. The outcomes were that

- **The World Bank agreed to establish and lead a global Funding Taskforce** to identify short- and long-term funding possibilities; and
- **The Arab Bank for Economic Development in Africa (BADEA) committed to provide funding for national implementation in African countries.**

It was envisioned that first funding options should be presented at the 2<sup>nd</sup> International Conference of the FiTI in Bali on 27 April 2017.

**UPDATE:  
REPORTS FROM PILOT COUNTRIES**

**MAURITANIA**

Mr. Mohamed Salem LOULY, FiTI focal point at the Ministry of Fisheries and Maritime Economy, Islamic Republic of Mauritania, presented the efforts undertaken by Mauritania to the International Advisory Group.

Mr. LOULY summarized the current status of the FiTI in Mauritania:

- The Ministry of Economy and Finance of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania has been assigned as lead ministry to lead FiTI implementation in the country;
- Official invitations to participate in the National Multi-Stakeholder Group were sent out to stakeholders from the fisheries sector, inviting them to designate their own representatives;
- The size of the National Multi-Stakeholder Group has been set to 15 members, equally distributed among representatives from government, business and civil society;
- The Mauritanian Government released a “note de service” to define the characteristics of the National FiTI Multi-Stakeholder Group and to accompany the process of the FiTI.

Mr. LOULY further explained that it is currently planned to host the first meeting of the Mauritanian FiTI National Multi-Stakeholder Group together with the upcoming visit of the International FiTI Secretariat in Mauritania (January 2017). For this, an official government decree is in the process of being prepared.

He further again clarified that even though it is very important to seek operational synergies with existing transparency initiatives (e.g. Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative – EITI), the FiTI has to be implemented in a separate process, thereby recognizing the very specificities and needs of fisheries.

## **SEYCHELLES**

Mr. Philippe MICHAUD, Special Advisor, Ministry of Finance, Trade and the Blue Economy, Republic of Seychelles, presented the recent developments of the FiTI in the Seychelles to the International Advisory Group.

Mr. MICHAUD highlighted that the Government of the Seychelles is supporting a regional approach for the FiTI, as such an approach could bring economies of scales. On this matter, the Seychelles are currently in contact with the Indian Ocean Commission to organize a regional workshop on the FiTI. The Government of the Seychelles is in discussions with the African Development Bank to get support for organizing this workshop early next year. Mr. MICHAUD added that such a workshop could be a good opportunity to coordinate with all relevant island states as well as other East African countries.

Furthermore, the Government of the Seychelles participated in the COFI panel on 14 July 2016 and supported the 1<sup>st</sup> Donors Roundtable at the Annual meeting of the World Bank / IFC.

Also, informal consultations with the EITI Secretariat on the Seychelles have taken place to assess possible synergies between both initiatives, most notably with regards to administrative aspects. On this point, Mr. MICHAUD highlighted that it is important to make use of existing facilities to save time and resources, especially for small countries.

Mr. MICHAUD highlighted that it is very encouraging to see the progress made in the other pilot countries, and underlined that the Seychelles would seek very close cooperation to benefit from their experience and learnings.

## INDONESIA

Mr. Aryo HANGGONO, Senior Expert Staff for Ecology and Marine Resources, Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries, Republic of Indonesia, presented the recent developments of the FiTI in Indonesia to the International Advisory Group.

Mr. HANGGONO highlighted that after the 4<sup>th</sup> International Advisory Group meeting in Madrid, Indonesia:

- Prepared the Ministerial Public Statement on FiTI implementation in Indonesia;
- Appointed the National FiTI Lead by consensus;
- Conducted five regular meetings with national FiTI stakeholders since June 2016;
- Established initial working team to establish National Multi-Stakeholder Group which is also responsible for day-to-day administration (temporary team);
- Consulted with a series of government bodies and agencies on the draft *Guidance Note for countries intending to implement the FiTI – Sign up steps*.

Mr. HANGGONO further explained that Indonesia would soon set up a National FiTI Secretariat and formalize the establishment of the National FiTI Multi-Stakeholder Group. Mr. HANGGONO outlined that this would be announced by Indonesia in a public statement at the 2<sup>nd</sup> International Conference of the FiTI in Bali (27 April 2017).

He also mentioned that Indonesia seeks to link FiTI to Indonesia efforts on countering illegal fisheries. Mr. EIGEN responded by stating that even though the FiTI is not primarily an IUU tool, there are strong synergies and that the FiTI could provide information to a variety of stakeholders to support these important endeavors.

Furthermore, the Government of Indonesia is starting the preparations for the 2<sup>nd</sup> International Conference of the FiTI in Bali on 27 April 2017. Mr. HANGGONO continued highlighting that Indonesia is very much looking forward to this important event and is doing everything to make it a full success. The Government of Indonesia is cooperating with the International Secretariat of the FiTI, using learnings from the 1<sup>st</sup> Conference in Mauritania.

Mr. EIGEN thanked all country representatives and acknowledged the **significant progress made**, even though the international governance structures and processes of the FiTI are not yet fully defined. He encouraged countries to use the **Guidance Note for countries intending to implement the FiTI process – The Sign-up Steps**, which provides clear steps to countries to continue their efforts

towards submitting a Candidacy Application to the FiTI International Board, starting from May 2017 (*Implementation Phase*).

Mr. EIGEN highlighted that the FiTI Secretariat will also follow up with other interested pilot countries – including a planned country visit to Guinea – but also with Argentina, Chile, Peru and Costa Rica. He also expressed his expectation that with the 2<sup>nd</sup> International Conference in 2017 awareness about the initiative and willingness to participate will increase amongst Asian countries. In that respect, it will be key for the success of the conference to reach out to high-level decision makers. Mr. HANGGONO strongly supported this point and said that the Bali Conference would be instrumental to engage more actors in the region. He emphasized the importance to design a strategy to reach out to more high-level participants for the Conference.

Regarding outreach to other countries, Mr. LOULY made suggestions for approaching financial institutions which promote good governance, such as the Islamic Development Bank.

Mr. **Barthélémy Jean Auguste BATIENO**, Partenariat Régional pour la Conservation de la zone côtière et Marine en Afrique de l'Ouest (PRCM), mentioned that the Government of Guinea requested him to organize a kick-off meeting for Guinea. It is currently considered that the workshop will take place in December 2016. For the preparations, the fisheries ministry, several members of parliament and conservation stakeholders have been approached.

Mr. BATIENO also mentioned that he will meet with several stakeholders in Senegal to discuss the current status of the FiTI there.

Mr. **Francisco MARI**, Bread for the World, stated that CAOPA is having general elections mid-October 2016 and is likely to continue to play a very supporting role in Senegal and beyond.

Ms. **Nedwa NECH** said that Mauritania is using the West Africa Regional Fisheries Program to support the FiTI at the regional level. Ms. NECH explained that there is a lot of interest in the FiTI when the initiative is presented in regional meetings, but that it would be necessary to sensitize at the highest level (Ministers) to engage countries in the FiTI, as participants to these meetings are often the Directors of Fisheries.

Mr. **Mohamed SADIKI**, Conférence Ministérielle sur la Coopération Halieutique entre les Etats Africains Riverains de l'Océan Atlantique (COMHAFAT), emphasized the importance to root the FiTI at the regional level. He expressed the intention to work together closely with the FiTI in order to

promote and facilitate its implementation. For this purpose, COMHAFAT is already exploring possibilities of how to include the FiTI in COMHAFAT events on a regular basis.

## FITI REPORTING

Mr. Sven BIERMANN stated that during the past four International FiTI Advisory Group meetings, significant progress has been made on defining the FiTI reporting and that only two aspects need further discussions:

- Recommendation for reporting on catches (based on the results of the Task Force on the disclosure of per vessel catch data (dated 28 October 2016));
- Recommendation on beneficial ownership.

He added that the FiTI reporting would be a major part in the FiTI Standard. This also entails that consequences for countries regarding the non-reporting of information would be included in the FiTI Standard.

Mr. BIERMANN summarized that based on the recommendations made during this meeting, the process of writing the FiTI Standard is planned to start in December 2016.

## RECOMMENDATION on CATCH REPORTING FOR LARGE-SCALE FISHERIES

Mr. BIERMANN explained that during the meeting in Madrid it was agreed to establish a dedicated task force to analyze obstacles for providing annual data on catches per large-scale vessel as part of the FiTI.

The objective of the task force was to reach a consensus on a recommendation for the FiTI Standard regarding catch reporting for large-scale fisheries. To facilitate the discussion of the task force, the International Secretariat prepared a report that considered various arguments in favor of/against per vessel reporting (*Report on the discussions of the task force on the disclosure of per vessel catch data* (dated 28 October 2016)).

Mr. BIERMANN thanked the members of the task force for their dedication, efforts and willingness to reach a consensus on a recommendation for the International Advisory Group on this issue:

**Recommendation 1: For large-scale fisheries, FiTI reports must include aggregated annual catch data for all licensed fishing vessels. Aggregation of data will be**

presented according to flag state, fishing gear and target species. Information ~~should~~ must normally be presented on retained targeted species, retained bycatch and discards, although where coastal states are unable to provide complete data on bycatch and discards, the reasons for this must be clearly articulated and information must be provided on what measures will be taken to improve the availability of catch data. Catch data on a per vessel basis for all or some fisheries can be published if justified and agreed upon by the National Multi-Stakeholder Group. Vessels that do not comply with catch reporting provisions according to the country's rules on fisheries tenure arrangement must be identified in the FiTI Report.

→ *This recommendation was approved by consensus with the changes highlighted.*

Additional remarks:

- It was clarified that this recommendation encompasses all authorized vessels which are fishing in a country's EEZ and national vessels authorized to fish abroad.
- It was highlighted that information on e.g. bycatch is crucial for managing fisheries as in some fisheries the proportion can be up to 90 percent (in relation to the target species). Therefore, information on retained targeted species, retained bycatch and discards *must normally* be included, also in order not to fall short of existing international standards. Therefore, the final wording of the agreed recommendation was adjusted accordingly.
- The country's approach to what level of disaggregation will be reported on should be decided on a case by case basis by the respective responsible National Multi-Stakeholder Groups. In any case, this should not lag behind existing country reporting to RFMOS or the FAO.
- Also, it was agreed that the FiTI countries should not be allowed to fall below their existing national reporting standards and practices.
- Participants emphasized the role of the principle of progressive improvement to avoid that countries stagnate on a low performance status. It was agreed that the National Multi-Stakeholder Group must take responsibility in agreeing on specific recommendations to enhance data over time.
- It was noted that among countries, the same fish species can be referred to with several different names. In order to avoid confusion

on catch data between different FiTI reports, it was proposed that all FiTI Reports would use the same terms and categories of fish species as used by the FAO.

- There was a proposal to use data on landings instead of catches of “target fish”, but this was rejected as in many countries international vessels do not land their catch in the countries where they fish.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS on BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP TRANSPARENCY**

Mr. BIERMANN highlighted that on the global governance agenda, few topics are currently receiving as much attention as the topic of beneficial ownership. Therefore, the International Secretariat is assessing whether and how to include this topic into the FiTI Standard.

He summarized that the current discussions on beneficial ownership can be characterized by two conflictive aspects (not only for fisheries sector but for other sectors as well). On the one hand, there is a high desire to provide beneficial ownership information. On the other hand, implementing beneficial ownership transparency may be challenging for many practical reasons.

He outlined that it is therefore important that the FiTI seeks to improve beneficial ownership transparency in fisheries whilst acknowledging practical difficulties for implementation.

On that basis, two recommendations were proposed that reflect the current discussions around beneficial ownership transparency:

**Recommendation 2: FiTI Country Reports must report on the countries legal and administrative framework regarding beneficial ownership. This information must be provided as a reporting category under contextual information. Relevant information comprises legal basis for beneficial ownership transparency, the country’s legal definition of beneficial ownership, whether a publicly available register of beneficial owners exist and how obtaining beneficial ownership is already incorporated in existing filings by companies to corporate regulators, stock exchanges or agencies regulating the access to fisheries, as well as current status and discussions around beneficial ownership transparency in fisheries.**

→ *This recommendation was approved by consensus.*

No additional remarks

**Recommendation 3:** *A dedicated taskforce must be established under the 1st International Board with the objective*

*i) to establish a binding roadmap until end of 2017 on when beneficial ownership transparency will be integrated in the FiTI Standard;*

*ii) to provide a Position Paper on beneficial ownership transparency in fisheries by mid of 2018;*

*iii) to provide recommendations to the International Board on how to incorporate beneficial ownership information in the FiTI Standard by the end of 2019; and*

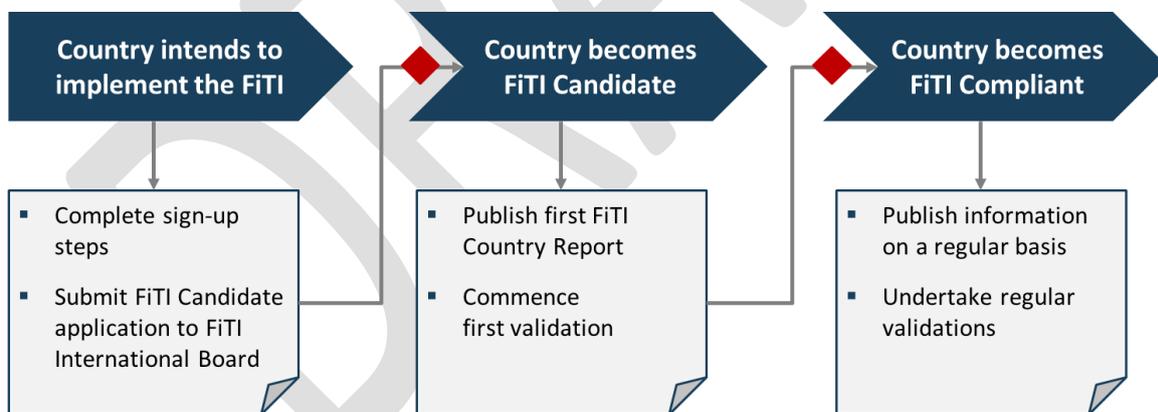
*iv) to develop practical guidance for countries on implementing beneficial ownership transparency by the end of 2020.*

→ *This recommendation was approved by consensus.*

No additional remarks

## FITI PROCESSES

Mr. BIERMANN re-emphasized that the overall FiTI Implementation process is based on three main stages:



### **RECOMMENDATION on SIGN-UP STEPS**

Mr. BIERMANN stated that a country intending to implement the FiTI is required to undertake a number of steps before it can apply to become a FiTI Candidate country. These steps are described in the “*Guidance Note for countries intending to implement the FiTI*”.

Mr. BIERMANN outlined that the Guidance Note was developed by the International Secretariat based on input and recommendations from FiTI pilot countries and governance experts, best practices from other multi-stakeholder transparency initiatives (e.g. EITI, CoST), and lessons learned from recent studies.

He highlighted that the Guidance Note was already reviewed by FiTI pilot countries.

Mr. BIERMANN stated that after approval of the global FiTI Standard, this Guidance Note would be updated accordingly. It is expected that the requirements listed in this note will not undergo substantive changes during the finalization of the FiTI Standard.

**Recommendation 4: Countries must complete 5 sign-up steps and their corresponding requirements, as outlined in the document “Guidance Note for countries intending to implement the FiTI” (dated 24 October 2016), in order to be eligible to submit a candidate application to the FiTI International Board.**

→ *This recommendation was approved by consensus.*

Additional remarks:

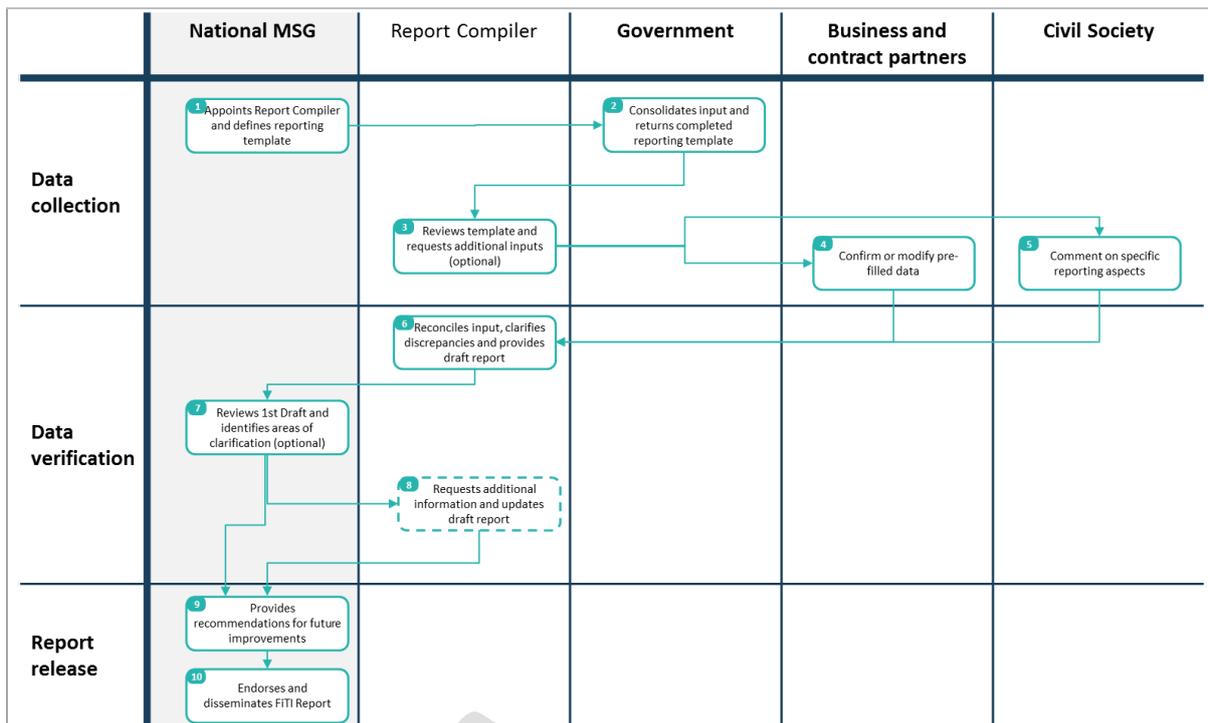
- STEP 2: The FiTI National Lead must normally be a person in (public) office to lead implementation and identify funding sources for FiTI implementation. This is strongly recommended as a lot of coordination is needed at the level of the government to lead the FiTI process. However, in exceptional cases, if the required tasks can be fulfilled by another outstanding representative (e.g. retired public official), the FiTI national Lead may not be a public official.
- STEP 5: It was emphasized that the development of a national work plan can require significant resources and time (e.g. due to necessity of translations and consultations with stakeholders).

#### **RECOMMENDATIONS on NATIONAL FiTI REPORTING**

Mr. BIERMANN outlined that after a country obtains its official status as a FiTI Candidate country, it must implement the FiTI Standard. This includes, inter alia, the regular publication of information (National FiTI reporting) and meeting basic transparency requirements (see below).

He emphasized that the FiTI Reporting is based on the principle that the benefits of transparency are increased when the published information is perceived as credible.

**The following figures summarizes the FiTI Reporting:**



**Recommendation 5:** The FiTI National Reporting process must follow the 10 steps outlined below, including data collection, data verification and report release.

→ This recommendation was approved by consensus.

Additional remarks:

- Role of the Report Compiler: The necessity of having an independent Report Compiler with technical knowledge of fisheries data was emphasized and confirmed. Because the Report Compiler will need to access a certain level of disaggregated information before it is aggregated in the reports, the Report Compiler is likely to be required to work under certain confidentiality agreements to be able to compile catch data (in cases where a country chooses to publish aggregated catch data).

It was also emphasized that the expectations towards the Report Compiler should be clear, including that the Report Compiler is not auditing the provided data. The role of the Report Compiler is not to make final assessments on the accuracy of the data. It is rather the role of the MSG to agree whether the data is correct.

For collecting the data, it was emphasized that the Report Compiler must reach out to other national and international stakeholders

that may be able to provide additional data, such as academic and research institutions.

Guidance on recruiting a Report Compiler will be provided by the International FiTI Secretariat.

It is currently considered that Report Compilers could be responsible for several countries (e.g. based in a regional hub) in order to improve quality of data collection and save costs (compared to the situation in which every country hires a Report Compiler separately).

- Requirement of large-scale vessels/operators to confirm data initially provided by the government: According to the FiTI principles, all stakeholder groups can contribute to increasing transparency. However, the proposed FiTI reporting process does not require business (companies as well as contract partners) to report on their catch data to the FiTI, due to the fact that businesses already have to provide their catch data to the national authorities and that this would only duplicate an existing reporting process.

However, it was discussed to which extent companies/contract partners are required to verify data reported by the government before this data is released in the FiTI Report for discussion in the National Multi-Stakeholder Group. An argument in favor is that the requirement of business to verify data would create ownership of data and process in business community and also reduce the risk that companies contest the information after the publication of the report. On the other hand, it was noted that this can create a significant amount of work for the Report Compiler as well as potential rejection by companies/contract partners regarding double-reporting. It was therefore agreed that each company/contract partner must have the opportunity to comment on the provided information. In case of non-response within a defined period, the information will be treated as approved. It was also agreed that it should be made transparent which companies/contract partners have not responded.

Timeline for 1<sup>st</sup> FiTI Country reporting:

**Recommendation 6: Countries must publish their first FiTI country report within 18 months after becoming an official FiTI Candidate country. Otherwise, the country may lose its current status (subject to decision by the International FiTI**

Board). This must include, at a minimum, information regarding tenure arrangements, large-scale and small-scale fisheries.

This timeframe can be extended by the International Board at the request of the country.

→ *This recommendation was approved by consensus.*

No additional remarks

### **RECOMMENDATIONS on BASIC TRANSPARENCY REQUIREMENTS<sup>3</sup>**

Mr. BIERMANN outlined that in order to become FiTI Compliant, it is considered to require a country to meet basic requirements (refer to Technical meeting in Berlin and 4<sup>th</sup> Advisory Group meeting) additionally. These requirements would go beyond supplying the data requested for tenure arrangements, large-scale fisheries, small-scale fisheries and contextual information.

Based on previous discussions, it is recommended that countries meet the following basic requirements in relation to transparency: i) **Publication of current fisheries laws, regulations and official policy documents**; and ii) **Publication of all access agreement contracts**.

Publication of current fisheries laws, regulations and official policy documents:

**Recommendation 7:** **Participating countries must provide and maintain an up-to-date, easily accessible, public repository of all national legislation and official policy documents relevant to fisheries. This ~~must~~ should ~~also~~ include ~~other related areas, such as shipping (navigation, vessel registration, tonnage measurement, etc.), trade in fish products, investments in fisheries, etc.~~**

→ *This recommendation was approved by consensus with changes highlighted below.*

Additional Remarks:

- The first part of the sentence was agreed. However, it was agreed that the second part of the sentence (what falls under “documents relevant to fisheries”) should be clearly specified. There was a consensus that this should include legislation on trade and investment. The International FiTI Secretariat will make a proposal as part of the FiTI Standard document.
- The National Multi-Stakeholder Group should decide on which specific areas of legislation formation must be provided.

<sup>3</sup> For detailed background to the recommendations, please refer to the Preparation Document, available at the FiTI website.

- It was agreed that a country must fulfill this requirement for becoming a FiTI Compliant Country. It is not a requirement to become a Candidate Country.

Publication of all access agreement contracts:

**Recommendation 8: Implementing countries must ensure that texts and amendments of new tenure arrangements are made public, and must further ensure that the texts of all existing access agreements are made public within 3 years from becoming an FiTI Candidate country.**

→ *This recommendation was approved by consensus.*

Additional Remarks:

- It was agreed that a country must fulfill this requirement for becoming a FiTI Compliant Country. It is not a requirement to become a Candidate Country.

During the meeting, a recommendation regarding the publication of a “**Publicly accessible up-to-date list of licensed vessels and operators**”<sup>4</sup> was proposed.

**Recommendation 8.1: Implementing countries must ensure that an up-to-date list of licensed vessels and operators is available.**

→ *This recommendation was approved by consensus. The International FiTI Secretariat will draft a recommendation to include it as basic transparency requirement;*

Additional Remarks:

- It was agreed that a country must fulfill this requirement to become a FiTI Compliant Country. It is however not a requirement to become a Candidate Country.
- It was agreed that such a list would build on the list of authorized large-scale vessels which countries must anyway publish to become FiTI compliant. The only difference is that it would have to be updated more frequently (although not real-time) than the normal list and would be published separately from the FiTI Report.
- It was noted that the interpretation of an up-to-date list requires clarification, as there may be considerable delays between issuing a license and updating the public list. It was agreed that delays should be minimized, however the National Multi-Stakeholder

<sup>4</sup> This element was added during the meeting upon request by participants. Recommendation 8.1 covers this element.

Group will decide on what is an acceptable timeframe for updating the list for their own fishing authority.

- It was welcomed that this requirement supports existing initiatives such as the Global Fishing Record of the FAO, the EU's proposed regulation on the sustainable management of external fishing fleets, as well as other third-party certification initiatives.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS on VALIDATION**

Mr. BIERMANN stated that in addition to the national FiTI Reporting process, the FiTI Standard includes a FiTI Validation process. Validation is an essential feature of the FiTI, safeguarding the integrity of the entire initiative by holding all FiTI implementing countries to the same global standard, ensuring that all participating countries apply similar processes and criteria.

He summarized that the evaluation of national implementations against FiTI Standard will take into account:

- The quality of reports (e.g. accuracy/completeness of previous FiTI Reports);
- The enabling environment (e.g. by consulting relevant stakeholders from within MSG and outside of the Group);
- Lessons learned and impact of the FiTI in the country;
- Recommendations for future implementations.

The validation will be conducted by independent Validators.

The conclusions of these validations will support the final decision of the International FiTI Board regarding the country's status.

Mr. BIERMANN highlighted that the validation is currently budgeted at the level of the International Secretariat.

#### **Timeline for 1<sup>st</sup> FiTI Country validation:**

**Recommendation 9: Countries must undergo an initial validation after completing their first FiTI Country Report. Only when the International Board approves the outcomes of the validation, the country can become a FiTI Compliant country.**

*→ This recommendation was approved by consensus.*

No additional remarks

Timeline for subsequent FiTI Country validation:

**Recommendation 10:** Countries should undergo regular validations by the International Board at least every 36 months unless otherwise requested by a country of deemed necessary by the International FiTI Board.

→ *This recommendation was approved by consensus.*

Additional remark(s):

- Between two validations scheduled every 36 months, it is also possible that ad hoc validations take place if requested by the International Board and/or if a country asks for early validation.

**TRANSITION FROM CONCEPTUAL PHASE TO IMPLEMENTATION PHASE**

Mr. BIERMANN outlined that with the expected finalization of the FiTI Standard in early 2017, the FiTI will transition from its current conceptual phase into a standardized implementation phase. This major milestone will be marked by the 2nd International FiTI Conference, hosted by the Government of Indonesia on 27 April 2017 in Bali / Indonesia.

He stated that this also requires that the FiTI develops from an initiative with an informal governance structure to a more formalized international members' organization (FiTI Association).

Mr. BIERMANN clarified that it would take some time to fully establish the relevant governance bodies for the FiTI, most notably the FiTI Association. Due to the fact that at the time the 1<sup>st</sup> International Board needs to be in place (after the Bali conference), the FiTI Association will not yet be set up, the FiTI Secretariat proposes a pragmatic transition from the International Advisory Group to the 1<sup>st</sup> International Board. This proposal is covered by Recommendations 11 – 14.

Setup of the 1<sup>st</sup> International FiTI Board:

Mr. BIERMANN said that it is expected that the 1<sup>st</sup> International Board would be formally established through acclamation by the participants of the 2<sup>nd</sup> International FiTI Conference.

**Recommendation 11:** Members of the 1<sup>st</sup> International Board should primarily be recruited from representatives of the current International Advisory Group.

→ *This recommendation was approved by consensus.*

Additional Remark:

- In case not all seats can be filled (see Recommendation 12 for number of seats), the International Secretariat should work

together with the International Advisory Group and participating Observers to identify possible candidates.

Size and composition of the 1<sup>st</sup> International FiTI Board:

**Recommendation 12:** The number of members for the 1st International Board should not exceed 18 seats. These seats should be equally distributed among representatives of the three stakeholder groups:

***Governments*** (total of 6 representatives, thereof at least 3 implementing coastal countries);

***Business*** (total of 6 representatives, thereof 3 large-scale fisheries business/associations and 3 small-scale fisheries associations); and

***Civil Society organizations*** (total of 6 representatives, thereof 3 international CSOs and 3 national/regional CSOs).

→ *This recommendation was approved by consensus.*

No additional remarks

Term of the 1<sup>st</sup> International FiTI Board:

**Recommendation 13:** The overall term for serving on the FiTI International Board is 3 years. 12 members of the 1st International Board are requested to serve this entire timeframe to ensure continuity. The other 6 members of the 1st International Board should serve no longer than 2 years and then be formally replaced by new Board members.

→ *This recommendation was approved by consensus.*

Additional Remark(s):

- This recommendation will be reviewed as part of the FiTI Standard writing to explore the feasibility with regards to the establishment of a formal governance structure (most notably the FiTI Members' Association).

Chair of the 1<sup>st</sup> International Board:

**Recommendation 14:** It is recommended that the current Chair of the International Advisory Group (Prof. Dr. Peter Eigen) takes on the role of 1st Chair of the International Board during a transition period of one year, until a new Chair is formally elected by the 1st International Board. For this,

**selection procedures for the 2nd Chair should start immediately after the transition to the International Board in May 2017.**

→ *This recommendation was approved by consensus.*

No additional remarks

Mr. BIERMANN stated that based on the decisions taken, the International Secretariat would send the Advisory Group members invitations to serve on the 1<sup>st</sup> International Board of the FiTI beginning of 2017, incl. Draft Terms of Reference outlining key role and responsibilities of members. He explained that, the Terms of Reference will be formally adopted by the 1<sup>st</sup> International FiTI Board in May 2017.

Mr. BIERMANN continued that the HUMBOLDT-VIADRINA Governance Platform, currently acting as the International Secretariat for the FiTI, is prepared to continue its current role and responsibilities as International Secretariat. The current core team (enlarged by additional personnel) would assume these responsibilities for the timeframe of the first three years. This is however also subject to funding. Afterwards, leadership and key operational personnel of the International Secretariat will be recruited and located by the formally-elected 2<sup>nd</sup> International FiTI Board.

Various participants thanked the HUMBOLDT-VIADRINA Governance Platform for their work so far and welcomed this approach.

## THE WAY FORWARD AND NEXT STEPS

Mr. **Sven BIERMANN** concluded the meeting by outlining the main two areas of work after the meeting:

- **Writing the FiTI Standard** based on the recommendations of the five meetings of the International Advisory Group. Mr. BIERMANN informed the participants that the World Bank is planning to provide a technical expert to help drafting the Standard. He asked the **members of the International Advisory Group to expect a draft Standard for comments and review as part of a public consultation at the end of February 2017.**
- **Preparing the 2<sup>nd</sup> International Conference:** Hosted by the Government of Indonesia, the 2<sup>nd</sup> International Conference of the FiTI, will mark – with the envisioned adoption of the global FiTI Standard - the transition to the full implementation of the FiTI. The one-day international conference will gather approximately 300 representatives of governments, businesses, civil society, international organizations, donors and media. The FiTI Secretariat will work very closely with the Government of Indonesia to prepare the conference. Mr. HANGGONO re-emphasized that Indonesia has been a leader in the establishment of the

FiTI and is very proud to host the 2<sup>nd</sup> International Conference of the FiTI next year in Indonesia.

Afterwards, Mr. EIGEN concluded the 5<sup>th</sup> Advisory Group meeting by thanking all participants for making the efforts of coming to Gothenburg and contributing to the success of this meeting and the initiative.

Mr. EIGEN suggested that based on the outcomes of this meeting, no further in-person meetings of the Advisory Group would be necessary. This judgement was shared and supported by participants of the meeting.

He thanked all supporters from governments, business and civil society for the work invested in helping developing the FiTI since the 1<sup>st</sup> meeting in Berlin in July 2015. He especially thanked the Government of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania for their financial and political support of the conceptual phase of the FiTI. He also thanked Mr. André STANDING, Advisor to the FiTI, for his ongoing excellent work and commitment to the success of the initiative.

The participants thanked Mr. EIGEN for his ongoing support and commitment to this initiative.

**The 2<sup>nd</sup> International Conference of the FiTI will take place in Bali / Indonesia on 27 April 2017 – kindly hosted by the Government of Indonesia.**

## APPENDIX I: List of Participants

<b>Organization</b> (in alphabetical order) <sup>5</sup>	<b>Name</b>
African Development Bank (AfDB)	<b>Mr. Jean-Louis KROMER</b>
Association of Russian Ship-owners in West Africa	<b>Mr. Alexander BIRYUKOV</b>
Bread for the World	<b>Mr. Francisco MARI</b>
Conférence Ministérielle sur la Coopération Halieutique entre les Etats Africains Riverains de l'Océan Atlantique (COMHAFAT)	<b>Mr. Mohamed SADIKI</b>
Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ)	<b>Ms. Mechthild KRONEN</b>
European Commission – Directorate General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries	<b>Mr. Kristofer Du RIETZ</b>
Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN (FAO)	<b>Ms. Victoria CHOMO</b>
Greenpeace	<b>Mr. Sebastián LOSADA</b>
Long Distance Advisory Council (LDAC)	<b>Mr. Alexandre RODRÍGUEZ</b>
Mauritanie 2000	<b>Ms. Nedwa NECH</b>
Ministry of Economy and Finance, Islamic Republic of Mauritania	<b>Mr. Mohamed Salem NANY</b>
Ministry of Fisheries and Maritime Economy, Islamic Republic of Mauritania	<b>Mr. Mohamed Salem LOULY</b>
Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries, Republic of Indonesia	<b>Mr. SAIFUDDIN</b>

<sup>5</sup> Participants may not necessarily reflect the official opinion of their organization and may serve in their personal capacity. Furthermore, not all participants of this meeting are already members of the International Advisory Group.

Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries, Republic of Indonesia	<b>Mr. Aryo HANGGONO</b>
Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries, Republic of Indonesia	<b>Ms. Erni WIDJAJANTI</b>
Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries, Republic of Indonesia	<b>Ms. Kania IGA AYU STHITI SARASWATI</b>
Ministry of Finance, Trade and The Blue Economy, Republic of Seychelles	<b>Mr. Philippe MICHAUD</b>
Oceana	<b>Ms. María José CORNAX</b>
Partenariat Régional pour la Conservation de la zone côtière et Marine en Afrique de l'Ouest (PRCM)	<b>Mr. Barthélémy Jean Auguste BATIENO</b>
Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management	<b>Ms. Gunilla TEGELSKÄR GREIG</b>
Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management	<b>Ms. Ylva MATTSSON</b>
The World Bank	<b>Mr. Xavier VINCENT</b>
World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF)	<b>Mr. Alfred SCHUMM</b>
Independent Expert (former FAO)	<b>Mr. Rolf WILLMANN</b>



HUMBOLDT-VIADRINA Governance Platform	<b>Mr. Peter EIGEN</b>
HUMBOLDT-VIADRINA Governance Platform	<b>Mr. Sven BIERMANN</b>
HUMBOLDT-VIADRINA Governance Platform	<b>Ms. Andréa DURIGHELLO</b>
HUMBOLDT-VIADRINA Governance Platform	<b>Mr. Sebastian WEGNER</b>
Advisor to HUMBOLDT-VIADRINA Governance Platform	<b>Mr. André STANDING</b>

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## APPENDIX II: Agenda of the meeting

### **08:30 – 09:00** *Arrival of participants*

### **09:00 – 09:30** **Opening remarks and Welcome**

Welcome by Gunilla Tegelskär Greig, Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management

Opening remarks by *Mr. Peter Eigen*, Co-founder of the HUMBOLDT-VIADRINA Governance Platform, Chair of the International Advisory Group of the FiTI

Remarks by Ministry of Economy and Finance, Islamic Republic of Mauritania

### **09:30 – 10:15** **Update on current status of the FiTI**

*Mr. Sven Biermann*, Director of the FiTI  
*Representatives from pilot countries*

### **10:15 – 11:00** **FiTI reporting**

Discussions

For more information, please refer to accompanying document “Preparatory Information” (Chapter 1).

### **11:00 – 11:15** **Coffee & Tea break**

### **11:15 – 12:30** **FiTI processes**

Discussions

For more information, please refer to accompanying document “Preparatory Information” (Chapter 2).

### **12:30 – 13:30** **Lunch**

**13:30 – 15:00 FiTI processes (cont.)**

Discussions

For more information, please refer to accompanying document “Preparatory Information” (Chapter 2).

**15:00 – 15:15 Coffee & Tea break**

**15:15 – 16:45 Transition from conceptual phase to implementation phase**

Discussion

For more information, please refer to accompanying document “Preparatory Information” (Chapter 3).

**16:45 – 17:15 Next steps towards the 2<sup>nd</sup> International Conference of the FiTI**

*Mr. Sven Biermann, Director of the FiTI*

**17:15 – 17:30 Wrap-up and Farewell**

*Mr. Peter Eigen, Co-founder of the HUMBOLDT-VIADRINA Governance Platform, Chair of the International Advisory Group of the FiTI*