



For Immediate Release

Bali Conference launches new era of transparency in fisheries

Bali – 27 April 2017. The 2nd International Conference of the Fisheries Transparency Initiative (FiTI), hosted by the Government of Indonesia, launched a new era of transparency and participation in fisheries.

On the invitation of H.E. Susi Pudjiastuti, Minister of Marine Affairs and Fisheries of Indonesia, more than 200 participants met in Bali and established an international standard to promote the open and accountable management of marine fisheries resources.

Result of extensive discussions spanning two years with international actors from government, business and the civil society, the FiTI Standard provides what information countries need to publish in order to unlock a major obstacle to the sustainable management of a resource that provides a critical source of jobs, food, and trade for millions of people around the world.

The establishment of the FiTI Standard marks the beginning of the implementation phase of the initiative through which FiTI countries will increase transparency and participation in fisheries governance for the benefit of a more sustainable management of marine fisheries.

“Indonesia is proud to be hosting this important conference, which marks a milestone of the Fisheries Transparency Initiative. Our country supports this initiative. With a coastline of over 80,000 kilometers, Indonesia needs to empower coastal communities to protect their marine ecosystems. Enhanced information about who fishes what in our waters will significantly support our measures to combat fisheries crimes”, said H.E. Susi Pudjiastuti.

Together with Indonesia, four other pilot countries (Mauritania, Senegal, Seychelles, Guinea) have already begun laying the foundations to start the implementation process for the FiTI in accordance with the national laws and policies of each respective country. Representatives from these countries emphasised the progress made in preparing for FiTI implementation and reiterated their commitment to the FiTI.

This transition of the FiTI from its conceptual phase to implementation phase was marked by an announcement from the Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries of the Seychelles, H.E. Michael Bernstrong, who conveyed the willingness of the Government of the Seychelles to host the FiTI International Secretariat.

The conference also welcomed the 1st International Board, the global executive body of the FiTI, comprising of representatives from government, business and civil society. The FiTI International Board chaired by Prof. Dr. Peter Eigen will supervise the FiTI process.

“Basic information on the fisheries sector often still remains out of the public domain. Without such information, the quality and credibility of decision-making can be undermined, while the prospect of effective oversight and accountability diminishes. Today, we mark a major milestone for change. With the FiTI Standard, we provide governments, the fishing industry (both large-scale and small-scale), and civil society with a comprehensive and credible way to achieve and maintain high levels of transparency on the management of the marine fisheries sector as well as on the activities of fishers and fishing companies. This comes at a crucial time where we all must work together to conserve and sustainably use our oceans, seas and marine resources.”, said Prof. Dr. Peter Eigen.