

**Security Council**

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Letter dated 9 December 2015 from the Chair of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1533 (2004) concerning the Democratic Republic of the Congo addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to transmit herewith the report of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1533 (2004) concerning the Democratic Republic of the Congo, containing an account of the Committee's activities from 1 January to 31 December 2015. The report, which was approved by the Committee, is being submitted in accordance with the note by the President of the Security Council of 29 March 1995 ([S/1995/234](#)).

I should be grateful if the present letter and the report were brought to the attention of the members of the Security Council and issued as a document of the Council.

(Signed) Dina **Kawar**
Chair

Security Council Committee established pursuant to
resolution 1533 (2004) concerning
the Democratic Republic of the Congo



Report of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1533 (2004) concerning the Democratic Republic of the Congo

I. Introduction

1. The present report of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1533 (2004) concerning the Democratic Republic of the Congo covers the period from 1 January to 31 December 2015.
2. The Bureau of the Committee consisted of Dina Kavar (Jordan) as Chair and the representatives of Chile and Lithuania as Vice-Chairs.

II. Background

3. By its resolution 1493 (2003), the Security Council imposed an arms embargo on all foreign and Congolese armed groups operating in the territory of North and South Kivu and Ituri and, by its resolution 1533 (2004), established the Committee and requested the Secretary-General, in consultation with the Committee, to establish a group of experts to monitor the implementation of the embargo. The scope of the arms embargo was subsequently amended several times; most significantly, by paragraph 2 of its resolution 1807 (2008), the Council determined that the measures on arms no longer applied to the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo. By paragraph 3 (a) of the same resolution, the Council also clarified that the measures on arms would not apply to supplies of arms and related materiel and technical training and assistance intended solely for support of or use by the United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. By paragraph 1 of its resolution 2136 (2014), the Council decided that the measures on arms would not apply to the supply of arms and related materiel, in addition to assistance, advice or training, intended solely for the support of or use by the African Union Regional Task Force. The arms embargo similarly does not apply to supplies of protective clothing or non-lethal military equipment intended solely for humanitarian or protective use.
4. By its resolution 1596 (2005), the Security Council imposed targeted travel and financial measures on individuals and entities designated by the Committee as violating the arms embargo. In subsequent resolutions, the Council gradually expanded the criteria based upon which an individual or entity may be designated for targeted sanctions to include political and military leaders who impede the disarmament process, use children in armed conflict or target children or women in situations of armed conflict.
5. The Security Council requires all States to notify the Committee in advance of supplies of arms and related materiel for the Democratic Republic of the Congo, or any provision of assistance or training relating to military activities in the country. A notification is also required for non-lethal military equipment intended solely for humanitarian or protective use and related technical assistance and training.
6. Further background information on the Democratic Republic of the Congo sanctions regime can be found in the previous annual reports of the Committee.

III. Summary of the activities of the Committee

7. The Committee met six times in informal consultations, on 9 January, 31 March, 28 April, 10 July, 14 October and 20 November, and twice in formal meetings, on 6 March and 14 December, in addition to conducting its work through written procedures.

8. During the informal consultations held on 9 January, the Group of Experts briefed the Committee on the main findings contained in its final report (S/2015/19), after which the Committee considered the Group's recommendations contained therein.

9. At the formal meeting held on 6 March, the Committee exchanged views on the final report of the Group of Experts with the representatives of Angola (on behalf of the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region), Burundi, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Rwanda, South Africa (on behalf of the Southern African Development Community), Uganda and the United Republic of Tanzania. During the meeting, the Committee was also briefed by a representative of the United Nations Mine Action Service regarding efforts to assist the authorities of the Democratic Republic of the Congo in the management and storage of arms and ammunition.

10. During the informal consultations held on 31 March, the Committee was briefed by the Executive Secretary of the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region, who provided information on the priorities and activities of the Conference, in particular with regard to monitoring the border between the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Rwanda and combating the illegal exploitation of natural resources.

11. During the informal consultations held on 28 April, the Group of Experts presented its workplan to the Committee.

12. During the informal consultations held on 10 July, the Group of Experts briefed the Committee on the main findings contained in its first progress update.

13. During the informal consultations held on 14 October, the Group of Experts briefed the Committee on the main findings contained in its midterm report (S/2015/797), after which the Committee considered the Group's recommendations contained therein.

14. During the informal consultations held on 20 November, the Committee was briefed by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict, who provided information on violations or alleged violations of the sanctions measures.

15. During the formal meeting held on 14 December, the Committee exchanged views on the midterm report of the Group of Experts (S/2015/797) with the representatives of Angola, Burundi, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Rwanda, South Africa, Uganda and the United Republic of Tanzania.

16. From 24 to 29 May, the Chair visited the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Rwanda and Uganda. It was the first such visit of the Chair to the Great Lakes region since the establishment of the sanctions regime in 2004. In the course of the visit, the Chair endeavoured to secure commitments from the Governments of the Member States visited.

17. On 22 January, the Chair presented to the Security Council an overview of the final report of the Group of Experts for 2014 ([S/2015/19](#)) and a summary of the Committee's discussions on 9 January. On 14 July, she presented to the Council an overview of her visit to the Great Lakes region from 24 to 29 May. On 28 October, she presented to the Council an overview of the midterm report of the Group of Experts ([S/2015/797](#)) and a summary of the Committee's discussions on 14 October.

18. The Committee sent 66 communications to 17 Member States and other stakeholders with reference to the implementation of the sanctions measures.

IV. Exemptions

19. Exemptions to the arms embargo are outlined in paragraphs 2 and 3 of resolution 1807 (2008).

20. Exemptions to the travel ban are outlined in paragraph 10 of resolution 1807 (2008).

21. Exemptions to the asset freeze are outlined in paragraph 12 of resolution 1807 (2008).

22. In 2015, the Committee received one exemption request pursuant to paragraph 12 of resolution 1807 (2008), with respect to the asset freeze.

V. Sanctions list

23. The criteria for the designation of individuals and entities as subject to the travel ban and asset freeze are set out in paragraph 5 of resolution 2198 (2015). The procedures for requesting listing and delisting are described in the Committee's guidelines for the conduct of its work.

24. The Committee approved updates to the list of individuals and entities subject to the travel ban and asset freeze imposed by paragraphs 13 and 15 of resolution 1596 (2005), as renewed by paragraph 3 of resolution 2198 (2015). The Committee made no new listings in 2015.

25. The Committee received a delisting request through the focal point for delisting, which it did not approve.

26. As at the end of the reporting period, there were 31 individuals and 9 entities on the sanctions list of the Committee.

VI. Group of Experts

27. On 12 March, following the adoption by the Security Council of resolution 2198 (2015) on 29 January, the Secretary-General appointed six individuals to serve on the Group of Experts, with expertise in arms (one expert), armed groups (two experts), natural resources/financial issues (two experts) and humanitarian issues (one expert) (see [S/2015/179](#)). Following the resignation of one of the experts on natural resources and financial issues, a new expert was appointed on 22 April (see [S/2015/272](#)). The mandate of the Group expires on 1 August 2016.

28. In addition to submitting its midterm report in October (S/2015/797), the Group conveyed a progress update to the Committee on 2 July pursuant to paragraph 7 of resolution 2198 (2015).

29. In relation to its mandate, the Group conducted multiple visits to the Democratic Republic of the Congo (primarily to Goma and Beni, North Kivu Province, and Bukavu, South Kivu Province) and also visited Belgium, China, France, Kenya, Rwanda, Uganda, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United Republic of Tanzania and the United States of America.

30. In pursuance of its mandate, the Group, through the Secretariat, sent 46 letters to Member States, the Security Council, the Committee and international and national entities.

VII. Secretariat administrative and substantive support

31. The Security Council Affairs Division provided substantive and procedural support to the Chair and members of the Committee. From 24 to 29 May, the Secretariat and the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo provided support for the visit of the Chair to the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Rwanda and Uganda to discuss the implementation of the sanctions regime. Advisory support was also provided to Member States to promote understanding of the sanctions regime and facilitate the implementation of the sanctions measures. On 1 December, a sanctions workshop was organized for incoming members of the Security Council to familiarize them with the substantive and procedural aspects of chairing a sanctions committee, including interaction with the United Nations system, sanctions experts and other relevant actors.

32. On 14 October, the Division launched a redesigned website for the subsidiary organs of the Security Council. The new website, which is available in the six official languages of the United Nations and accessible to the visually impaired, features an improved and user-friendly layout. It offers swift and easy access to the current sanctions measures and applicable exemptions, the Consolidated United Nations Security Council Sanctions List and individual committee sanctions lists. Narrative summaries of the reasons for listing are displayed in an easy-to-navigate and searchable format. The website also provides clear and practical explanations of the procedures for listing, delisting and exemptions.¹

33. On 28 December, the Division made available all the Security Council sanctions lists in the six official languages. This builds upon last year's standardization of the format of all Council sanctions lists and the establishment of the Consolidated United Nations Security Council Sanctions List, in response to resolutions 2083 (2012) and 2161 (2014).

34. As part of the Division's effort to recruit well-qualified experts to serve on sanctions monitoring groups, teams and panels, a note verbale was sent to all Member States on 1 December to request the nomination of qualified candidates for membership of the Division's roster of experts. Upon the receipt of nominations, the

¹ The website is accessible at www.un.org/sc/suborg/ or from the Security Council's website at www.un.org/en/sc/.

Division will assess the suitability of nominated candidates for its roster for future consideration for the relevant expert panels. In addition, the Division sent notes verbales to all Member States notifying them of upcoming vacancies on specific sanctions panels and providing information on recruitment timelines, areas of expertise and pertinent requirements.

35. The Division continued to provide substantive advice and support to the Group of Experts, conducting an induction for newly appointed members, in New York, and assisting in the preparation of its midterm report in October.

36. From 8 to 11 September, the Division, in cooperation with United Nations system partners, conducted a pilot training workshop on investigative techniques for 12 experts from sanctions monitoring groups, teams and panels. The objective of the training was to equip the participants with an understanding of basic investigative techniques, processes and tools and to strengthen their understanding of the approach to investigations within the framework of the Security Council sanctions regimes.

37. Moreover, to promote greater cooperation among the different expert panels, the Division organized a third annual inter-panel coordination workshop, held in New York on 16 and 17 December. The event was attended by members of all 12 monitoring groups, teams and panels. The workshop afforded sanctions experts the opportunity to discuss strategic and technical issues relating to Security Council sanctions with representatives of the sanctions committees, as well as United Nations system, other international, private sector and non-governmental partners.

38. During the reporting period, the Secretariat established the Inter-Agency Working Group on United Nations Sanctions under the leadership of the Department of Political Affairs. The Working Group brings together 25 United Nations entities to support Security Council sanctions regimes and integrate United Nations sanctions with other peace and security efforts of the United Nations system, as appropriate.
