



# Security Council

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## Letter dated 14 December 2020 from the Chair of the Security Council Committee pursuant to resolution 751 (1992) concerning Somalia addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to transmit herewith the report of the Security Council Committee pursuant to resolution [751 \(1992\)](#) concerning Somalia, containing an account of the Committee's activities from 1 January to 31 December 2020. 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) Philippe Kridelka  
Chair

Security Council Committee pursuant to resolution [751 \(1992\)](#)  
concerning Somalia



## Report of the Security Council Committee pursuant to resolution 751 (1992) concerning Somalia

### I. Introduction

1. The present report of the Security Council Committee pursuant to resolution 751 (1992) concerning Somalia covers the period from 1 January to 31 December 2020.

2. The Bureau of the Committee consisted of Marc Pecsteen de Buytswerve (1 January to 31 July), Karen Van Vlierberge (1 to 12 August) and Philippe Kridelka (13 August to 31 December) (Belgium) as Chairs and representatives of Tunisia and Viet Nam as Vice-Chairs.

### II. Background

3. By its resolution 733 (1992), the Security Council imposed a general and complete arms embargo on Somalia and, by its resolution 751 (1992), established a committee to oversee the implementation of the embargo. Subsequently, in its resolutions 1356 (2001), 1425 (2002), 1744 (2007), 1772 (2007), 1846 (2008), 1851 (2008), 1916 (2010), 2060 (2012), 2093 (2013), 2111 (2013), 2142 (2014), 2182 (2014), 2244 (2015), 2317 (2016), 2385 (2017), 2444 (2018), 2498 (2019) and 2551 (2020), the Council introduced exemptions to and further defined the scope of the embargo.

4. By its resolution 1425 (2002), the Security Council established the Panel of Experts on Somalia, which was succeeded by the Monitoring Group established by its resolution 1519 (2003). By paragraphs 1, 2 and 7 of its resolution 1844 (2008), the Council imposed targeted measures (a travel ban, an asset freeze and a targeted arms embargo) on individuals and entities designated by the Committee. In the same resolution, the Council also introduced certain exemptions to those measures, including a humanitarian exemption to the asset freeze, which was most recently renewed by resolution 2551 (2020) without specifying an expiry date.

5. In its resolution 2036 (2012), the Security Council imposed a ban on the export of charcoal from Somalia and its direct or indirect import from Somalia, whether or not the charcoal originated in Somalia. In its resolution 2093 (2013), the Council partially lifted the arms embargo for the development of the security forces of the Federal Government of Somalia.

6. The Security Council renewed the partial lifting of the arms embargo for the development of the security forces of the Federal Government of Somalia in its resolutions 2142 (2014), 2182 (2014), 2244 (2015), 2317 (2016), 2385 (2017), 2444 (2018) and 2498 (2019). By its resolution 2551 (2020), the Council decided to renew the partial lifting of the arms embargo without specifying an expiry date and removed the notification requirement for the training of the Somali National Security Forces. In its resolution 2182 (2014), the Council authorized, for a period of 12 months, Member States acting nationally or through voluntary multinational naval partnerships, such as “combined maritime forces”, to interdict charcoal and arms being transported in violation of the sanctions measures in Somali territorial waters and on the high seas off the coast of Somalia, extending to and including the Arabian Sea and the Persian Gulf. The Council renewed the authorization for the maritime interdiction of arms and Somali charcoal in its resolutions 2244 (2015), 2317 (2016), 2385 (2017), 2444 (2018), 2498 (2019) and 2551 (2020), most recently until 15 November 2021.

7. In its resolution [2498 \(2019\)](#), the Security Council imposed a ban on components for improvised explosive devices and, in its resolution [2551 \(2020\)](#), added to the list of components.

8. The mandate of the Panel of Experts on Somalia, consisting of six experts and based in Nairobi, was established by the Security Council in its resolution [2444 \(2018\)](#) and renewed until 15 December 2021 by the Council in its resolution [2551 \(2020\)](#). In its resolution [2551 \(2020\)](#), the Council also requested the Federal Government of Somalia, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and the Panel to continue to exchange information about Al-Shabaab's finances and to continue to work with stakeholders to develop a plan to disrupt Al-Shabaab's finances; and requested the Panel to give recommendations to the Committee on how to support the Federal Government in weapons and ammunition management, including efforts towards establishing a national small arms and light weapons commission.

9. Further background information on the Somalia sanctions regime can be found in the previous annual reports of the Committee.

### **III. Summary of the activities of the Committee**

10. The Committee met once in informal consultations, on 17 January, in addition to conducting its work through written procedures.

11. In the light of the challenges posed to the Committee's usual procedures by the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, including the limitations on holding in-person meetings, and in order to ensure the continuity of its work, the members of the Committee agreed, on an exceptional basis, to hold virtual meetings in the form of closed videoconferences, on 29 April, 27 May, 14 September and 9 October.

12. During the informal consultations held on 17 January, the Chair introduced to the Committee the newly appointed members of the Panel of Experts on Somalia, and the Coordinator of the Panel outlined some of the Panel's priorities.

13. During the closed videoconference held on 29 April, the Committee heard a presentation by the Mine Action Service on trends relating to improvised explosive devices in Somalia and the implementation of the improvised explosive device components ban.

14. During the closed videoconference held on 27 May, the Committee received a briefing from the Coordinator of the Panel of Experts on Somalia concerning the Panel's midterm update to the Committee, in accordance with paragraph 33 of resolution [2498 \(2019\)](#), and the Committee discussed the recommendations contained therein.

15. During the closed videoconference held on 14 September, the Committee received a briefing from the Panel of Experts on Somalia on its final report ([S/2020/949](#)), submitted in accordance with paragraph 33 of resolution [2498 \(2019\)](#), and discussed the recommendations contained therein.

16. During the closed videoconference held on 9 October, the Committee heard a presentation by the Deputy Director of the Operations and Advocacy Division of the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs on the humanitarian situation in Somalia and impediments to the delivery of humanitarian assistance. In the same videoconference, the Committee also heard a presentation by the Head of the Global Maritime Crime Programme of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime on its work in response to resolution [2498 \(2019\)](#).

17. In accordance with paragraph 104 of the annex to the note by the President of the Security Council (S/2017/507), the Committee issued a press release containing a brief summary of the informal consultations held on 17 January.

18. On 27 February, 9 June and 28 October, the Chair presented to the Security Council the 120-day briefings on the work of the Committee, pursuant to paragraph 11 (g) of resolution 1844 (2008). The briefing of 27 February was held in a public meeting (see S/PV.8735), while the briefings of 9 June (S/2020/521) and 28 October (S/2020/1079) were provided during open videoconferences.

19. From 21 to 23 January, the Chair visited Somalia to obtain first-hand information on the implementation of the Somalia sanctions regime. The visit helped to raise awareness of the purpose and scope of the sanctions measures and encouraged cooperation and engagement among the Committee, the Panel of Experts on Somalia and the Federal Government of Somalia, as well as with other key interlocutors. A report on the visit was circulated to the members of the Committee on 21 February.

20. On 17 July, the Committee sent a note verbale to all Member States encouraging them to ensure coordinated and coherent training, capacity-building and systems support across institutions, at the level of the Federal Government of Somalia and the federal member states of Somalia.

21. On 3 August, the Committee adopted its Implementation Assistance Notice No. 3 aimed at providing guidance to Member States on the improvised explosive device components ban and regulations in place for the export of explosive materials to Somalia. The Notice is available on the Committee's website.

22. On 4 December, the Committee sent a note verbale to all Member States drawing their attention to issues relating to Al-Shabaab's finances, the improvised explosive device components ban, the charcoal ban and the Committee's sanctions list pursuant to the final report of the Panel of Experts on Somalia (S/2020/949).

23. The reports of the Federal Government of Somalia submitted to the Security Council pursuant to paragraph 35 of resolution 2498 (2019) were circulated to the Committee on 18 February and 20 August, respectively.

24. The Committee sent 30 communications to 11 Member States and other stakeholders with reference to the implementation of the sanctions measures.

## IV. Exemptions

25. Exemptions to the arms embargo on Somalia are contained in paragraphs 9 to 15, 17 and 18 of resolution 2498 (2019). Requirements related to the partial lifting of the arms embargo are contained in paragraphs 16 and 35 of resolution 2498 (2019). The exemptions and the partial lifting are reaffirmed in paragraphs 9 to 19 of resolution 2551 (2020).

26. Exemptions to the asset freeze on Somalia are contained in paragraph 4 of resolution 1844 (2008).

27. Exemptions to the travel ban on Somalia are contained in paragraph 2 of resolution 1844 (2008).

28. The Committee received five notifications pursuant to paragraph 17 of resolution 2498 (2019). The Committee also received 16 notifications pursuant to paragraph 11 of resolution 2498 (2019), of which 11 were from the Federal Government of Somalia in accordance with paragraph 13 of the resolution. Furthermore, the Committee approved an exemption request from the Federal Government pursuant to paragraphs 10 and 13 of resolution 2498 (2019). The

Committee also received six communications from the Federal Government pursuant to paragraph 16 of resolution [2498 \(2019\)](#).

29. Following the adoption of resolution [2551 \(2020\)](#), the Committee received three notifications pursuant to paragraph 11 of the resolution, of which two were from the Federal Government of Somalia in accordance with paragraph 13 of the resolution; the items reflected in one of the notifications were also contained in a notification by a Member State in accordance with paragraph 14 of the resolution. The Committee received two notifications pursuant to paragraph 17 of the resolution, and another notification pursuant to paragraph 16 of the resolution.

## V. Sanctions list

30. The criteria for the designation of individuals and entities as subject to the travel ban, asset freeze and targeted arms embargo for the Somalia sanctions regime are set out in paragraph 8 of resolution [1844 \(2008\)](#), paragraph 1 of resolution [2002 \(2011\)](#), paragraph 23 of resolution [2036 \(2012\)](#), paragraphs 1 to 3 of resolution [2060 \(2012\)](#), paragraph 43 of resolution [2093 \(2013\)](#) and paragraph 50 of resolution [2444 \(2018\)](#). The procedures for requesting listing and delisting are described in the Committee's guidelines for the conduct of its work.

31. No entries were added to or removed from the list. As at the end of the reporting period, there were 15 individuals and one entity on the sanctions list of the Committee.

## VI. Panel of Experts on Somalia

32. On 8 May, in accordance with paragraph 33 of resolution [2498 \(2019\)](#), the Panel of Experts on Somalia submitted its comprehensive midterm update to the Committee. On 4 September, in accordance with the same paragraph, the Panel provided its final report to the Committee, which was transmitted to the Security Council on 28 September and issued as a document of the Council ([S/2020/949](#)). In accordance with its mandate, the Panel also provided monthly updates to the Committee.

33. On 11 December, following the adoption by the Security Council of resolution [2551 \(2020\)](#), the Secretary-General appointed six individuals to serve on the Panel of Experts on Somalia, with expertise in maritime/regional matters, armed groups/natural resources, humanitarian affairs, armed groups, finance and arms (see [S/2020/1199](#)). The mandate of the Panel expires on 15 December 2021.

34. The Panel of Experts on Somalia, which is based in Kenya, conducted visits to Belgium, France, Turkey and the United States of America. In Somalia, the Panel undertook visits to Mogadishu in January, February and November 2020.

35. In pursuance of its mandate, the Panel of Experts on Somalia, through the Secretariat, sent 23 letters to 14 Member States, the Security Council, the Committee and international and national entities.

## VII. Secretariat administrative and substantive support

36. The Security Council Affairs Division provided substantive and procedural support to the Chair and members of the Committee. Advisory support was also provided to Member States to promote understanding of the sanctions regime and facilitate the implementation of the sanctions measures. Induction briefings were also provided to incoming members of the Council to familiarize them with the specific

issues relevant to the sanctions regime. The Division, together with the Department of Peace Operations and the Department of Safety and Security, supported the visit of the Chair and members of the Committee to Somalia from 21 to 23 January.

37. The Division worked with the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management and the Office of Information and Communications Technology of the Department of Management Strategy, Policy and Compliance to facilitate the conduct of virtual meetings held by the Committee, through a variety of platforms.

38. To support the Committee in its recruitment of well-qualified experts to serve on sanctions monitoring groups, teams and panels, a note verbale was sent to all Member States on 14 December to request the nomination of qualified candidates for the roster of experts. In addition, a note verbale was sent to all Member States on 21 August notifying them of upcoming vacancies on the Panel of Experts on Somalia and providing information on recruitment timelines, areas of expertise and pertinent requirements. Also on 21 August, vacancy announcements were made available online at [careers.un.org](https://careers.un.org).

39. The Division continued to provide support to the Panel of Experts on Somalia, conducting a virtual induction for newly appointed members and assisting in the preparation of the Panel's midterm update, submitted to the Committee in May, and its final report, submitted to the Committee in September. While COVID-19 pandemic restrictions impeded the travel of Panel members for much of the year, the Secretariat facilitated travel by Panel members to Member States, taking into account World Health Organization guidelines, national travel advisories and other pandemic-related requirements. The Secretariat also organized a remote workshop on investigative techniques, held from 14 to 16 December, which was focused on investigative methods and tools for experts. In addition, the Secretariat organized training sessions for experts on the use of subscription-based analytical products and programmes, as well as databases and other research tools, to facilitate their monitoring and reporting work.

40. The Secretariat continued to update and maintain the United Nations Security Council Consolidated List and the committee-specific sanctions lists in the six official languages and the three technical formats. Furthermore, the Secretariat implemented improvements concerning the effective utilization of and access to the lists, as well as further developing, in all official languages, the data model approved in 2011 by the Committee pursuant to resolutions [1267 \(1999\)](#), [1989 \(2011\)](#) and [2253 \(2015\)](#) concerning Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (Da'esh), Al-Qaida and associated individuals, groups, undertakings and entities, as requested by the Council in paragraph 54 of resolution [2368 \(2017\)](#). Since November 2020, the notes verbales notifying Member States about listings on, delistings from and updates to the Consolidated List and the committee-specific sanctions lists have also been made available in Arabic, Chinese and Russian, in addition to English, French and Spanish, in order to facilitate the timely implementation of changes to the relevant lists.