

FACT SHEET ON THE 1533 DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO SANCTIONS COMMITTEE (2004)

Chair (as of 1 Dec 2020)	Ambassador Abdou Abarry (Niger)
Mandate	Seek from all states, and particularly those in the region, information regarding the actions taken by them to implement effectively the measures imposed, including by providing states with an opportunity, at the committee's request, to send representatives to meet with the committee for more in-depth discussion of relevant issues; examine and take appropriate action on information concerning alleged violations of the measures, present regular reports to the Council on its work, with its observations and recommendations, in particular on the ways to strengthen the effectiveness of the measures.
Types of Sanctions	Arms embargo, travel ban and assets freeze. Sanctions expire on 1 July 2021 and are normally renewed for 12 months.
Exemptions	Arms embargo: supplies of arms to the DRC government, supplies of arms and related materiel for support of or use by MONUSCO or the AU-Regional Task Force, other supplies of non-lethal military equipment intended solely for humanitarian or protective use, and related technical assistance and training, as notified in advance to the committee. Travel ban: humanitarian grounds, including religious obligation; participation in efforts to bring to justice perpetrators of grave violations of human rights or international humanitarian law; entry or transit necessary for the fulfilment of judicial processes; cases determined by the committee to further the objectives of the Council's resolutions and transit to the individual's state of nationality authorized in advance by the committee. Assets freeze: for basic expenses, legal services, extraordinary expenses, or assets determined by a relevant state to be the subject of a judicial, administrative or arbitration lien or judgement.
Number of Listed Individuals/Entities	36 individuals/nine entities Most recent listing made: 6 February 2020
Travel Ban/Asset Freeze Listing Criteria	Political and military leaders: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> of foreign armed groups operating in the DRC who impede the disarmament and the voluntary repatriation or resettlement of combatants belonging to those groups; of Congolese militias receiving support from outside the DRC and in particular those operating in Ituri, who impede the participation of their combatants in DDR processes; or recruiting or using children in armed conflict in violation of applicable international law. Individuals: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> operating in the DRC and committing serious violations of international law involving the targeting of children or women in situations of armed conflict, including killing and maiming, sexual violence, abduction and forced displacement; obstructing the access to or the distribution of humanitarian assistance in the DRC; or supporting acts that undermine the peace, stability or security of the DRC. Individuals or entities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> supporting the illegal armed groups in the eastern part of the DRC through illicit trade of natural resources, including gold; or acting on behalf of or at the direction of a designated individual or entity owned or controlled by a designated individual; or planning, sponsoring or participating in attacks against MONUSCO peacekeepers or UN personnel; or providing financial, material, or technological support for, or goods or services to, or in support of a designated individual or entity.
Delisting Procedures	Member states may at any time submit to the committee requests for delisting of individuals and entities inscribed on the 1533 Sanctions List. Listed individuals and entities seeking to submit a request for delisting can do so either directly to the Focal Point for Delisting or through his/her state of residence or nationality.
Monitoring Mechanism	Group of Experts with six members, last updated on 20 July 2020. Virginie Monchy, humanitarian affairs and coordinator (France) Nelson Alusala, natural resources/finance expert (Kenya) Mélanie De Groof, arms (Belgium) Gora Mbaye, armed groups (Senegal) Sophia Pickles, natural resources/finance expert (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland) Maia Trujillo, armed groups (Colombia) In March 2017, two members of the 1533 DRC Sanctions Committee's Group of Experts, Zaida Catalán and Michael Sharp, and their interpreter, Betu Tshintela, were murdered in the DRC. The Group of Experts' mandate was last renewed in June 2020 in resolution 2528 and expires on 1 August 2021, but is due to be renewed by 1 July 2021. The final report was published on 2 June 2020. A midterm report under the new resolution is due no later than 30 December 2020 and the next final report is due no later than 15 June 2021. The group also submits monthly updates to the committee, except in the months where the mid-term and final reports are due. These updates are not made public.

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Decision-Making

All decisions are made by consensus. If consensus cannot be reached on a particular issue, the matter may be referred to the Council. Decisions may be made by a "no-objection procedure" of five working days. In emergency situations the chair may decide to reduce that time period after notifying all committee members accordingly. In exceptional cases, the committee may decide to extend that time period. If no objection is received within the defined period, the proposed decision will be deemed adopted.

A hold placed on a matter by a member of the committee will cease to have effect at the time its membership of the committee ends. New members shall be informed of all pending matters one month before their membership begins and are encouraged to inform the committee of their position on relevant matters, including possible approval, objection or hold, at the time they become members. The committee will review at least once a month the status of pending issues as updated by the Secretariat.

Committee Reporting to the Council

Resolution 2360 requests the committee to report to the Council at least once a year. This was renewed through resolution 2528. In 2019, there were two briefings in an open Council meeting: on 24 July and on 17 December.

In 2020, there was one briefing on 6 October in an open Council meeting.

Open Briefings for Wider UN Membership

Two briefings were held in 2019: on 1 February and 9 August 2019.

Summary of Committee Activities (1 Jan – 6 October 2020)

Committee members met five times in informal consultations in 2019 on 25 March, 24 May, 8 July, 27 August and 2 December. There was additional work through written procedures.

The Chair of the committee in 2019, Ambassador Mansour Ayyad Sh. A. Alotaibi (Kuwait), also hosted at the Permanent Mission of Kuwait six "informal informal" meetings with Robert Petit, the senior official of the DRC follow-on mechanism as his team provides assistance to the Government of the DRC to investigate the March 2017 murders of the two former members of the Group of Experts.

From 27 April to 6 May, the Chair of the Committee visited the DRC, Uganda and the United Arab Emirates.

In 2020, committee members met once times in informal consultations on 21 February. There was additional work through written procedures. Additionally, due to COVID-19 working methods, committee members held informal informals via VTC five times on 22 May, 27 May, 12 June (a joint informal informal VTC with the 2127 Central African Republic Sanctions Committee), 10 July, and 4 September.

Member States Reporting Obligations

Resolution 2528 refers back to Resolution 2360, which recommends all member states to fully implement the regional certification scheme on natural resources and report mineral trade statistics.

UN Documents

Security Council Resolution

[S/RES/2528](#) (25 June 2020) renewed the DRC sanctions regime until 1 July 2021 and the mandate of the Group of Experts assisting the 1533 DRC Sanctions Committee until 1 August 2021.

[S/RES/1533](#) (12 March 2004) established the Sanctions Committee and the Group of Experts.

Other

[S/2020/726](#) (20 July 2020) was a letter from the Secretary-General to the President of the Security Council, appointing the Group of Experts assisting the DRC Sanctions Committee for a term expiring 1 August 2021.

[S/2020/482*](#) (2 June 2020) was the final report of the Group of Experts.

[SC/14101](#) (6 February 2020) was a press release with the name of the newest addition to the DRC sanctions list.

[S/2019/965](#) (19 December 2019) was the report of the 1533 Committee on its activities from 1 January to 31 December 2019.

[S/2019/607](#) (30 July 2019) was a letter from the Secretary-General to the president of the Security Council, appointing the Group of Experts assisting the DRC Sanctions Committee.

[S/2019/9](#) (2 January 2019) was a letter from the Secretary-General to the president of the Security Council, appointing a new groups expert to the Group of Experts assisting the DRC Sanctions Committee.

[SC/13194](#) (1 February 2018) was a press release about

the addition of four individuals to the DRC sanctions list.

[S/2017/917](#) (31 October 2017) was a letter from the Secretary-General about the deployment of a team to assist national authorities in the investigation of the murder of two members of the DRC Sanctions Committee's Group of Experts.

[SC/12959](#) (17 August 2017) was a press release on the 4 August open briefing of the DRC Sanctions Committee.

[S/2017/713](#) (15 August 2017) was a letter from the Secretary-General containing the executive summary of the Board of Inquiry's report on the murder of two members of the DRC Sanctions Committee's Group of Experts.

[S/2017/672](#) (10 August 2017) was the final report of the Group of Experts.