Letter dated 17 December 2014 from the Chair of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1737 (2006) 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 1737 (2006), containing an account of the Committee’s activities from 1 January to 31 December 2014. 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) Gary Quinlan
Chair
Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1737 (2006)
Report of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1737 (2006)

I. Introduction

1. The present report of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1737 (2006) covers the period from 1 January to 31 December 2014.

2. The Bureau of the Committee consisted of Gary Quinlan (Australia) as Chair and the representative of Chad as Vice-Chair.

II. Background

3. In efforts aimed at ensuring the exclusively peaceful nature of the Iranian nuclear programme and the fulfilment of the international commitments of the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Security Council has adopted four resolutions in which it imposed and/or strengthened various sanctions on that country: 1737 (2006), 1747 (2007), 1803 (2008) and 1929 (2010). A handout describing the implementation by States of the resolutions is available on the Committee’s website.

4. The Committee is mandated to oversee the implementation of the relevant measures imposed by the resolutions. A panel of experts, established pursuant to resolution 1929 (2010), acts under the direction of and assists the Committee to implement its mandate.

5. Further background information on the Islamic Republic of Iran sanctions regime can be found in the previous annual report (S/2013/783).

III. Summary of the activities of the Committee

6. The Committee met six times in informal consultations, on 20 January, 17 March, 2 and 23 June, 20 October and 8 December, in addition to conducting its work through written procedures.

7. At the informal consultations held on 20 January and 17 March, the Committee explored ways to implement the six recommendations contained in the final report of the Panel of Experts for 2013 (S/2013/331).

8. The Committee approved a course of action for each of the six recommendations. Thereafter, the Committee continued to consider specific methods to put the recommendations into practice, including the designation of an entity found to be in violation of the relevant resolutions.

9. At the informal consultations held on 2 June, the Coordinator of the Panel provided the Committee with an overview of the major findings outlined in the Panel’s final report for 2014 (S/2014/394). Committee members welcomed the report, which was characterized as objective, measured and strongly sourced. Several members stressed that the Committee should follow up on the recommendations made by the Panel in the report, considering the practical nature of the advice offered by the experts in strengthening the implementation of the Security Council resolutions.
10. During the informal consultations held on 20 October, the Committee discussed the issue concerning possible modalities of cooperation between the Panel and the Financial Action Task Force. The Secretariat briefed Committee members on the standardized format of the sanctions list of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1737 (2006) and on the corresponding changes to the website of the Committee. The Secretariat explained that, pursuant to resolution 2083 (2012), the overall objective of the exercise was to create the Consolidated United Nations Security Council Sanctions List, which would include the designations by all the Council sanctions committees, with a view to better supporting Member States in the implementation of Council-mandated sanctions measures.

11. At the informal consultations held on 8 December, the Committee discussed the Panel’s midterm report before it was submitted to the Security Council on the same day.

12. Pursuant to paragraph 18 (h) of resolution 1737 (2006), the Committee should report at least every 90 days to the Security Council on its work. Accordingly, the Chair briefed the members of the Council on 20 March, 25 June, 15 September and 18 December.


14. The Committee sent 18 communications to 12 Member States, 9 communications to two international organizations and 1 communication to the focal point for delisting (the last-mentioned in relation to a delisting request) with reference to the implementation of the sanctions measures.

IV. Exemptions

15. Provisions for exemptions under paragraphs 9, 13 and 15 of resolution 1737 (2006) are to apply where the Committee determines in advance and on a case-by-case basis that items or materials would clearly not contribute to the prohibited nuclear activities of the Islamic Republic of Iran; with regard to the assets freeze, where they are based on basic or extraordinary expenses associated with the provision of legal representation or for humanitarian purposes; with regard to the travel ban, on the grounds of humanitarian need, including religious obligations, or for the furtherance of the objectives of resolution 1929 (2010). The Islamic Republic of Iran sanctions regime does not provide for any exemption to the arms embargo.

16. The Committee authorized an exemption to the travel ban for a listed individual, allowing his participation in the General Conference of the International Atomic Energy Agency, held in Vienna from 22 to 26 September. The Committee continued to consider three requests for exemptions: the first was related to a proposal by a United Nations specialized agency to provide technical assistance to the Islamic Republic of Iran; the second to a request received by a State from the Islamic Republic of Iran Mine Action Centre in which cooperation with that State in the field of mine action was proposed; and the third to a request that a State had received from the Islamic Republic of Iran for technical training for the Iranian armed forces. The Committee has not yet taken final decisions on the three requests owing to the need to seek further information thereon.
V. Sanctions list

17. The Committee decides on the designation of individuals and entities pursuant to paragraph 18 (f) of resolution 1737 (2006). It also considers, within 10 working days from the date of official transmittal to the Committee members, all requests from States Members of the United Nations, submitted in writing, to add the names of individuals and entities to the Committee’s sanctions list. If no objections are received within the defined period, the names will be promptly added to the Committee’s sanctions list.

18. The Committee considered no new requests for listing and delisting. It considered a delisting request made by a financial institution in 2013 and provided input to the focal point for delisting for a response to the request. On 17 December, the Committee approved updates to its sanctions list. As at the end of the reporting period, there were 43 designated individuals and 78 entities on the Committee’s sanctions list.

VI. Panel of Experts

19. On 2 July, following the adoption by the Security Council of resolution 2159 (2014) on 9 June, the Secretary-General appointed eight individuals to serve on the Panel of Experts, until 9 July 2015, with expertise in conventional arms, finance, export control, customs, nuclear issues/technology, maritime transport, missile issues/technology and arms control and non-proliferation policy (see S/2014/464).

20. On 8 May, in accordance with paragraph 2 of resolution 2105 (2013), the Panel submitted its final report to the Committee, which was transmitted to the Security Council on 5 June and issued as a document of the Council (S/2014/394).

21. On 1 August, in accordance with paragraph 3 of resolution 2159 (2014), the Panel submitted to the Committee its programme of work for the period from 10 July 2014 to 9 July 2015.

22. On 7 November, in accordance with paragraph 2 of resolution 2159 (2014), the Panel submitted its midterm report to the Committee, which was transmitted to the Security Council on 8 December.

23. The Panel also submitted to the Committee five inspection reports on incidents of alleged non-compliance with the sanctions measures.

24. At the invitation of the countries concerned, the Panel conducted visits to Austria, Bahrain, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Chile, Colombia, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Greece, Iraq, Israel, Italy, Latvia, Monaco, Mongolia, the Philippines, Poland, the Republic of Korea, Spain, the United Arab Emirates and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to discuss the measures taken by those countries to implement resolutions 1737 (2006), 1747 (2007), 1803 (2008) and 1929 (2010). The Panel also held informal consultations with government officials and national experts of Member States and with representatives of several international organizations and entities, such as the Financial Action Task Force, the Centre for Information on Security Trade Control, the China Arms Control and Disarmament Association, the Eastern and Southern Africa Anti-Money Laundering Group, the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate and the Council of Europe Committee of Experts on the Evaluation of Anti-Money Laundering
Measures and the Financing of Terrorism. It also participated in relevant international meetings, conferences and seminars.

VII. Secretariat administrative and substantive support

25. The Security Council Affairs Division provided administrative and substantive support to the Chair and members of the Committee. Support was also provided to Member States to promote understanding of the sanctions regime and to facilitate the implementation of the sanctions measures.

26. The Division also managed the Committee website in accordance with the Committee guidelines, including by updating the Committee’s sanctions list. In 2014, in response to resolutions 2083 (2012) and 2161 (2014), and to further promote the implementation of Security Council sanctions regimes by national authorities, the Division standardized the format of all Council sanctions lists and established the Consolidated United Nations Security Council Sanctions List, comprising the names included in all the sanctions lists of the Council sanctions committees.

27. As part of the Division’s effort to recruit well-qualified experts to serve on sanctions monitoring groups, teams and panels, and as is done annually, a note verbale was sent to all Member States in December to request the nomination of qualified candidates for membership of the Division’s roster of experts. Upon the receipt of nominations, the Division will assess the suitability of nominated candidates for its roster, for future consideration for the relevant expert panels. The roster, developed in partnership with the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation, uses a versatile technological platform to screen candidates against available terms of reference for expert positions and manages their profiles for consideration for current and future positions on expert panels. The roster is designed to ensure that the sanctions committees have access to a broad pool of qualified candidates, with due regard for geographical diversity and gender balance. An invitation to join the roster does not guarantee actual selection or consideration for available positions.

28. The Division continued to provide administrative and substantive support to the expert panels. It assisted the Panel of Experts to expand its contacts with international organizations, think tanks and other interested partners to promote the effective implementation of the Security Council resolutions concerning the Islamic Republic of Iran.

29. At the invitation of Thailand, the Division conducted a visit to that country to provide assistance to Thai authorities in the implementation of resolutions 1737 (2006), 1747 (2007), 1803 (2008) and 1929 (2010).

30. To promote greater cooperation among the different panels, the Division organized a second annual inter-panel coordination workshop, held in New York on 16 and 17 December. The event was attended by members of all 11 monitoring groups, teams and panels. The focus of the workshop was on enhancing cooperation with the United Nations system. Moreover, the Division created a collaborative web-based platform allowing each panel of experts to securely manage its own information and to promote working-level communication across panels in the fields of arms, finance, aviation, customs and transport.