

**Security Council**

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**Letter dated 19 December 2019 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 2019. 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) Mansour Ayyad Sh. A. **Alotaibi**
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 2019.
2. The Bureau of the Committee consisted of Mansour Ayyad Sh. A. Alotaibi (Kuwait) as Chair and the representatives of Peru and Poland 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 and militias operating in the territory of North and South Kivu and Ituri and on groups not party to the Comprehensive and All-Inclusive Agreement on the Transition in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. By its resolution 1533 (2004), the Council 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 arms embargo. The scope of the 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 Group of Experts on the Democratic Republic of the Congo initially consisted of four experts, a number that was increased to five experts by the Security Council in its resolution 1596 (2005) and then again increased to six experts by the Council in its resolution 1952 (2010). The Group's mandate was most recently extended by the Council in its resolution 2478 (2019).
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 five times in informal consultations on 25 March, 24 May, 8 July, 27 August and 2 December; and held two briefings for Member States on 1 February and 9 August, in addition to conducting its work through written procedures.
8. During the briefing held on 1 February, the Coordinator of the Group of Experts gave a presentation on the main findings contained in the Group's midterm report (S/2018/1133), submitted pursuant to paragraph 4 of resolution 2424 (2018).
9. During the informal consultations held on 25 March, the Committee heard a briefing on natural resources by the outgoing Coordinator of the Group of Experts, who reached the end of his five-year term as expert on 27 March 2019.
10. During the informal consultations held on 24 May, the Acting Coordinator of the Group of Experts briefed the Committee on the Group's final report (S/2019/469), submitted pursuant to paragraph 4 of resolution 2424 (2018), and discussed the recommendations contained therein.
11. During the informal consultations held on 8 July, the Committee heard a briefing by the Chair regarding his visit to the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Uganda and the United Arab Emirates (28 April to 6 May).
12. During the briefing held on 9 August, the Coordinator of the Group of Experts presented the main findings and recommendations contained in the Group's final report (S/2019/469) and the Chair also spoke briefly on his visit to the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Uganda and the United Arab Emirates.
13. During the informal consultations held on 27 August, the Committee heard a briefing by the Coordinator of the Group of Experts in connection with the programme of work of the Group of Experts in pursuance of resolution 2478 (2019).
14. During the informal consultations held on 2 December, the Coordinator of the Group of Experts presented the main findings and recommendations contained in the Group's midterm report (S/2019/974), submitted pursuant to paragraph 4 of resolution 2478 (2019), and the Committee discussed the recommendations contained therein.
15. Following the above-mentioned Committee meetings and briefings to Member States, and in accordance with paragraph 104 of the annex to the note by the President of the Security Council contained in document S/2017/507, the Committee issued press releases containing brief summaries of most of its meetings.
16. The Committee sent 68 communications to 26 Member States and other stakeholders with reference to the implementation of the sanctions measures.

IV. Exemptions

17. Exemptions to the arms embargo are contained in paragraphs 2 and 3 of resolution 1807 (2008).
18. Exemptions to the travel ban are contained in paragraph 10 of resolution 1807 (2008).
19. Exemptions to the asset freeze are contained in paragraph 12 of resolution 1807 (2008).
20. The Committee received 15 arms embargo notifications in pursuance of paragraph 5 of resolution 1807 (2008) and paragraphs 2 and 3 (c) of resolution 2293 (2016), as most recently renewed by resolution 2478 (2019), for the provision of

non-lethal military equipment for humanitarian and protective use, technical assistance and training, as well as weapons, ammunition and arms and related materiel, to the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

V. Sanctions list

21. The criteria for the designation of individuals and entities as subject to the travel ban and asset freeze are set out in paragraph 7 of resolution [2293 \(2016\)](#), as reaffirmed and expanded in paragraph 2 of resolution [2478 \(2019\)](#). The procedures for requesting listing and delisting are described in the Committee's guidelines for the conduct of its work.

22. At the end of the reporting period, there were 35 individuals and nine entities on the sanctions list of the Committee.

VI. Group of Experts

23. The Committee continued to follow developments on the murder in March 2017 of two members of the Group of Experts and held "informal informals" with the senior official of the United Nations team assisting the Democratic Republic of the Congo with its national investigation on 15 February, 6 June and 9 October 2019.

24. The final report of the Group of Experts, submitted pursuant to paragraph 4 of resolution [2424 \(2018\)](#), was issued as a document of the Council on 7 June ([S/2019/469](#)).

25. On 29 July, following the adoption by the Security Council of resolution [2478 \(2019\)](#), the Secretary-General appointed six individuals to the Group of Experts, with expertise in arms (one expert), armed groups (two experts), natural resources/finance (two experts) and humanitarian affairs (one expert) (see [S/2019/607](#)). The mandate of the Group will expire on 1 August 2020.

26. On 4 October, in accordance with paragraph 6 (h) of resolution [2360 \(2017\)](#), as renewed by resolution [2478 \(2019\)](#), the Group provided confidential information, comprising supporting evidence, on an individual who, in the Group's view, met the listing criteria delineated in paragraph 7 (d) and (e) of resolution [2293 \(2016\)](#).

27. On 22 November, in accordance with paragraph 4 of resolution [2478 \(2019\)](#), the Group of Experts provided its midterm report to the Committee, which was transmitted to the Security Council on 20 December and issued as a document of the Council ([S/2019/974](#)).

28. The Group of Experts conducted regular visits to the Democratic Republic of the Congo (primarily to Kinshasa, Goma, Beni, Oicha, Bunia, Djugu territory, Bukavu, Uvira, Minembwe, Kitchanga and Rutshuru) and also visited Belgium, Italy, Rwanda, Uganda, the United Arab Emirates and the United States of America.

29. In pursuance of its mandate, the Group of Experts, through the Secretariat, sent 115 letters to 45 Member States, the Security Council, the Committee and international and national entities.

VII. Secretariat administrative and substantive support

30. The Security Council Affairs Division provided substantive and procedural support to the Chair and the 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 the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Uganda and the United Arab Emirates from 29 April to 5 May 2019.

31. 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 18 December to request the nomination of qualified candidates for membership of the roster of experts. In addition, a note verbale was sent to all Member States on 11 April, notifying them of upcoming vacancies in the Group of Experts and providing information on recruitment timelines, areas of expertise and pertinent requirements. On 5 April, a vacancy announcement was also made available online at careers.un.org.

32. The Division continued to provide support to the Group of Experts, conducting an induction for newly appointed members and assisting in the preparation of the Group's final report, submitted to the Committee in May, and its midterm report, submitted to the Committee in November. The Secretariat convened a two-day inter-panel workshop, at which 60 experts representing 10 sanctions panels were invited to share experiences and good practices and to discuss issues of common interest. The Secretariat also organized an investigative techniques workshop, which was focused on investigative methods and tools for panel experts.

33. The Secretariat continued to update and maintain the Consolidated United Nations Security Council Sanctions 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 sanctions 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 \(2017\)](#).