Letter dated 17 December 2018 from the Chair of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1591 (2005) concerning the Sudan 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 1591 (2005), containing an account of the Committee’s activities from 1 January to 31 December 2018. 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) Joanna Wronecka
Chair
Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1591 (2005) concerning the Sudan
Report of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1591 (2005) concerning the Sudan

I. Introduction

1. The present report of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1591 (2005) concerning the Sudan covers the period from 1 January to 31 December 2018.

2. The Bureau of the Committee consisted of Joanna Wronecka (Poland) as Chair and the representatives of Côte d’Ivoire and the Netherlands as Vice-Chairs.

II. Background

3. By its resolution 1556 (2004), the Security Council imposed an arms embargo on all non-governmental entities and individuals, including the Janjaweed, operating in the States of North Darfur, South Darfur and West Darfur in the Sudan. By its resolution 1591 (2005), the Council broadened the scope of the arms embargo to include all parties to the N’Djamena Ceasefire Agreement and any other belligerents in those States (subsequently confirmed, in resolution 2035 (2012), to also include the new States of East and Central Darfur). Exemptions to the measures were also included.

4. By its resolution 1591 (2005), the Security Council also established a committee to monitor the implementation of the arms embargo and the two additional measures, a travel ban and an asset freeze, imposed through the same resolution on individuals, to be designated by the Committee, on the basis of the criteria contained in the resolution. The Council, by its resolution 2035 (2012), subsequently extended the applicability of the designation criteria to entities. By its resolution 1672 (2006), the Council designated four individuals as subject to the travel ban and asset freeze.

5. The enforcement of the arms embargo was strengthened in resolution 1945 (2010), when the Security Council clarified the exemptions to that measure and made the sale or supply of arms and related materiel to the Sudan not prohibited by the embargo contingent upon the necessary end user documentation. The exemptions to the embargo were further updated in resolution 2035 (2012).

6. By its resolution 1769 (2007), the Security Council provided for an arms embargo monitoring aspect to the mandate of the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID). In its resolution 2228 (2015), the Council requested UNAMID to discontinue all other tasks not aligned to its revised strategic priorities, which did not include any reference to the above-mentioned monitoring role. The Council expressed deep concern over the proliferation of arms, in particular small arms and light weapons, and requested UNAMID to continue to cooperate in that context with the Panel of Experts on the Sudan in order to facilitate its work. The Council reiterated its concern and request in its resolution 2363 (2017).

7. The Panel of Experts, operating under the direction of the Committee, was established by the Security Council in its resolution 1591 (2005) to assist the Committee in monitoring the implementation of the measures and to act as a source of information for potential designations. The membership of the Panel, which initially consisted of four experts, was increased to five experts by the Council in its resolution 1713 (2006). The Panel’s mandate was renewed most recently in resolution 2400 (2018).
8. Further background information on the Sudan sanctions regime can be found in the previous annual reports of the Committee.

III. Summary of the activities of the Committee

9. The Committee met once in a formal meeting, on 2 February, and five times in informal consultations, on 12 April, 13 June, 17 August, 24 October and 14 December, in addition to conducting its work through written procedures.

10. During its 9th formal meeting, on 2 February, the Committee met representatives of the Sudan and countries in the region (the Central African Republic, Chad, Egypt, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Libya, South Sudan and Uganda), pursuant to paragraph 3 (a) (vii) of resolution 1591 (2005) and as reaffirmed in paragraph 27 of resolution 2340 (2017), with the aim of further strengthening dialogue between the Committee and the invited delegations. The Panel of Experts also participated in the meeting.

11. During the informal consultations held on 12 April, the Committee heard a presentation by the Coordinator of the Panel of Experts on its work programme under resolution 2400 (2018).

12. During the informal consultations held on 13 June, the Chair presented to the Committee a report on her visit to the Sudan from 13 to 20 April. The Committee discussed the report and the recommendations contained therein.

13. During the informal consultations held on 17 August, the Committee heard a presentation by the Panel of Experts on the Panel’s interim report, submitted pursuant to paragraph 2 of resolution 2400 (2018).

14. During the informal consultations held on 24 October, the Committee received a briefing from the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict.

15. During the informal consultations held on 14 December, the Committee heard a presentation by the Panel of Experts on its final report, submitted in accordance with paragraph 2 of resolution 2400 (2018), and discussed the recommendations contained therein.

16. Following the above-mentioned formal meeting and informal consultations, and in accordance with paragraph 104 of the annex to the note by the President of the Security Council (S/2017/507), the Committee issued press releases containing brief summaries of the formal meeting and informal consultations.

17. On 14 March (S/PV.8202), 14 June (S/PV.8287) and 3 October (S/PV.8366), the Chair of the Committee briefed the Security Council on the activities of the Committee, pursuant to paragraph 3 (a) (iv) of resolution 1591 (2005).

18. From 13 to 20 April, the Chair visited Khartoum and Darfur. A report on the visit was circulated to the members of the Committee on 6 June.

19. In 2018, the Committee received one implementation report from a Member State.

20. The Committee sent 20 communications to 10 Member States and other stakeholders with reference to the implementation of the sanctions measures.
IV. Exemptions

21. Exemptions to the arms embargo are contained in paragraph 9 of resolution 1556 (2004) and paragraph 7 of resolution 1591 (2005), subsequently updated in paragraph 8 (b) of resolution 1945 (2010) and paragraph 4 of resolution 2035 (2012).

22. Exemptions to the travel ban are contained in paragraph 3 (f) of resolution 1591 (2005) and exemptions to the asset freeze in paragraph 3 (g) of resolution 1591 (2005).

23. No exemption requests or notifications were received by the Committee during the period under review.

V. Sanctions list

24. The criteria for the designation of individuals and entities as subject to the travel ban and asset freeze are set out in paragraph 3 (c) of resolution 1591 (2005). The procedures for requesting listing and delisting are described in the Committee’s guidelines for the conduct of its work.

25. On 14 March, the Committee approved amendments to three existing entries on its sanctions list.

26. As at the end of the reporting period, there were four individuals on the sanctions list of the Committee.

VI. Panel of Experts

27. On 14 March, following the adoption by the Security Council of resolution 2400 (2018), the Secretary-General appointed four experts, with expertise in arms and armed groups, finance, international humanitarian law and transport and customs, to serve on the Panel (S/2018/223). On 9 May, a fifth expert, with regional expertise, was appointed to the Panel (S/2018/442). The mandate of the Panel expires on 12 March 2019.

28. On 8 August, in accordance with paragraph 2 of resolution 2400 (2018), the Panel provided its interim report to the Committee.

29. On 6 February, 12 March, 1 June and 21 September, in accordance with paragraph 3 of resolution 2340 (2017) and paragraph 2 of resolution 2400 (2018), the Panel of Experts submitted quarterly updates to the Committee.

30. On 27 November, in accordance with paragraph 2 of resolution 2400 (2018), the Panel provided its final report to the Committee, which was transmitted to the Security Council in December and is expected to be issued as a document of the Council in January 2019.

31. On 13 December, the Panel of Experts submitted statements of case on 4 individuals that, in the Panel’s view, met the listing criteria delineated in resolution 1591 (2005).

32. The Panel conducted visits to Belgium, Chad, Egypt, Ethiopia, France, India, Ireland, Italy, Kenya, the Niger, Qatar, South Sudan, the Sudan, Sweden, Switzerland, Uganda, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America.
33. Since 1 January 2018, in pursuance of its mandate, the Panel has, through the Secretariat, sent 40 letters to Member States, the Committee and several international and national entities.

VII. Secretariat administrative and substantive support

34. 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 supported the visit of the Chair and members of the Committee to the Sudan from 13 to 20 April.

35. 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 5 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 28 November notifying them of upcoming vacancies on the Panel of Experts and providing information on recruitment timelines, areas of expertise and pertinent requirements. The vacancy announcement on 28 November was also made available online at careers.un.org.

36. The Division continued to provide support to the Panel of Experts, conducting an induction for newly appointed members and assisting in the preparation of the Panel’s interim report submitted in August and its final report submitted in November. In August, the Secretariat circulated an updated handbook for experts, which provides sanctions experts with information to facilitate their work and to answer frequently asked questions that may arise during their term. The information provided is based on relevant United Nations rules and regulations, and on practices and procedures established by the Secretariat.

37. 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, including through the creation of links within list entries, as appropriate, to International Criminal Police Organization-United Nations Security Council Special Notices, as well as the further development in all official languages of 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 Security Council in paragraph 54 of resolution 2368 (2017).