

Distr.: General 31 December 2022

Original: English

Letter dated 27 December 2022 from the Chair of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 2140 (2014) 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 2140 (2014), containing an account of the Committee's activities from 1 January to 31 December 2022. 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 (\$/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) Ferit Hoxha Chair Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 2140 (2014)





Report of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 2140 (2014)

I. Introduction

1. The present report of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 2140 (2014) covers the period from 1 January to 31 December 2022.

2. The Bureau of the Committee consisted of Ferit Hoxha (Albania) and a representative of Ghana as Vice-Chair.

II. Background

3. By its resolution 2140 (2014), the Security Council imposed an asset freeze and a travel ban, for an initial period of one year from the date of the adoption of the resolution (26 February 2014), on individuals and entities engaging in or providing support for acts that threatened the peace, security or stability of Yemen. Exemptions to the measures were also included. The Council established a committee to designate such individuals and entities and to oversee the implementation of the measures and a panel of experts to assist the Committee in carrying out its mandate. The Committee was also tasked with encouraging a dialogue between the Committee and interested Member States, in particular those in the region, and directed to cooperate with other relevant Council sanctions committees, in particular 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. On 7 November 2014, the Committee designated the former President of Yemen, Ali Abdullah Saleh, and two commanders of the Houthis as subject to the asset freeze and travel ban.

4. The Security Council, by its resolution 2204 (2015), renewed the asset freeze and travel ban for a further period of one year, and, by its resolution 2216 (2015), imposed a targeted arms embargo against designated individuals and entities. Inspection provisions were included in the context of the enforcement of the arms embargo, including requirements with regard to reporting to the Committee by any Member State when it undertakes an inspection, and additional reporting if prohibited items for supply, sale or transfer are found. The Council broadened the designation criteria to include violations of the targeted arms embargo as well as obstruction of the delivery of humanitarian assistance to Yemen or access to, or distribution of, humanitarian assistance in Yemen. It designated the leader of the Houthis, Abdulmalik al-Houthi, and the former President's son, Ahmed Ali Abdullah Saleh, as subject to the sanctions measures. The mandate of the Panel of Experts was also broadened to include monitoring the implementation of the arms embargo, and the size of the Panel was increased from four experts to five as a result.

5. The mandate of the Panel of Experts was most recently extended until 28 March 2023 by the Security Council in its resolution 2624 (2022), by which the Council also renewed until 28 February 2023 the asset freeze and travel ban, and reaffirmed the targeted arms embargo. By this resolution, the Council also designated the Houthis as an entity subject to the targeted arms embargo.

6. Further background information on the Yemen 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 three times in informal consultations, on 10 June, 9 September and 29 November, in addition to conducting its work through written procedures.

8. 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 inperson meetings, and in order to ensure the continuity of its work, the members of the Committee agreed, on an exceptional basis, to hold a virtual meeting in the form of a closed videoconference, on 21 January.

9. During the closed videoconference, the Committee heard a presentation by the Panel of Experts on its final report (S/2022/50), submitted in accordance with paragraph 10 of resolution 2564 (2021), and discussed the recommendations contained therein.

10. During the informal consultations held on 10 June, the Committee heard a briefing by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict.

11. During the informal consultations held on 9 September, the Committee heard a presentation by the Coordinator of the Panel of Experts on the Panel's midterm update, submitted in accordance with paragraph 16 of resolution 2624 (2022), and discussed the recommendations contained therein.

12. During the informal consultations held on 29 November, the Committee met jointly with the Security Council Committee pursuant to resolution 751 (1992) concerning Al-Shabaab to discuss issues related to the smuggling of weapons between Yemen and Somalia.

13. In accordance with paragraph 104 of the annex to the note by the President of the Security Council (S/2017/507), the Committee established pursuant to resolution 2140 (2014) issued press releases containing summaries of the informal consultations held on 10 June, 9 September and 29 November. Press releases were also issued on 27 September, 4 October and 1 November on topics related to the work of the Committee.

14. On 15 February, pursuant to paragraph 19 (e) of resolution 2140 (2014), the Chair of the Committee gave a briefing to the Security Council on the activities of the Committee (see S/PV.8966).

15. In 2022, the Committee received 216 inspection reports from the United Nations Verification and Inspection Mechanism for Yemen. The Committee also received nine implementation reports from nine Member States.

16. The Committee sent seven communications to three stakeholders with reference to the implementation of the sanctions measures.

IV. Exemptions

17. Exemptions to the asset freeze are outlined in paragraphs 12 to 14 of resolution 2140 (2014).

18. Exemptions to the travel ban are outlined in paragraph 16 of resolution 2140 (2014).

19. Exemptions, on a case-by-case basis, to any activity from the sanctions measures are outlined in paragraph 3 of resolution 2511 (2020).

20. During the reporting period, the Committee received one request for exemption invoking paragraph 12 (a) of resolution 2140 (2014).

V. Sanctions list

21. The criteria for the designation of individuals and entities as subject to the asset freeze, travel ban and arms embargo are set out in paragraphs 17 and 18 of resolution 2140 (2014) and paragraph 19 of resolution 2216 (2015). The criteria are further detailed in paragraph 6 of resolution 2511 (2020) and paragraphs 13 and 14 of resolution 2624 (2022). The procedures for requesting listing and delisting are described in the Committee's guidelines for the conduct of its work.

22. Four entries were added to the list. No entries were removed from the list. As at the end of the reporting period, there were 12 individuals and one entity on the sanctions list of the Committee.

VI. Panel of Experts

23. On 23 December 2021, in accordance with paragraph 10 of resolution 2564 (2021) the Panel of Experts provided its final report to the Committee (S/2022/50), which was transmitted to the Security Council and issued as a document of the Council.

24. On 17 May 2022, following the adoption by the Security Council of resolution 2624 (2022) on 28 February, the Secretary-General appointed three individuals, with expertise in arms, finance and international humanitarian law, to serve on the Panel of Experts (see S/2022/411). On 5 October, the Secretary-General appointed a fourth individual, with expertise in armed groups (see S/2022/773). The position of the fifth expert, with expertise in regional affairs, remained vacant. The mandate of the Panel expires on 28 March 2023.

25. On 9 September, in accordance with paragraph 16 of resolution 2624 (2022), the Panel of Experts presented its midterm update to the Committee.

26. The Panel of Experts conducted visits to Bahrain, Egypt, Germany, Saudi Arabia, Switzerland, Uganda, the United Arab Emirates, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America. In Yemen, the Panel undertook visits to Aden, Ghaydah, Mukalla and Nishtun.

27. In pursuance of its mandate, the Panel of Experts, through the Secretariat, sent 109 letters to 32 Member States, the Security Council, the Committee and international and national entities.

VII. Secretariat administrative and substantive support

28. 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. To complement those briefings, from 2 to 4 December, the Secretariat conducted the second issues-based training session on the design, implementation, monitoring, evaluation, adjustment and redesign of sanctions for incoming members of the Council.

29. 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 in-person meetings in line with relevant COVID-19 guidance and restrictions and continued to make virtual meetings available as an alternative option.

30. To support the Committee in its recruitment of well-qualified experts to serve on sanctions monitoring groups, teams and panels, on 25 October the Division launched a module in Inspira to manage the applicant pool of incumbent and prospective experts. Furthermore, the Division conducted an outreach event on 27 October to attract more women applicants to Panels of Experts and to the pool of experts. On 8 December, a note verbale was sent to all Member States to request the nomination of qualified candidates for the pool of experts. In addition, a note verbale was sent to all Member States on 17 May, 12 September and 8 December 2022 notifying them of upcoming vacancies on the Panel and providing information on recruitment timelines, areas of expertise and pertinent requirements. On 13 May, 6 September and 8 December 2022, vacancy announcements were also made available online at the United Nations career portal (http://careers.un.org).

31. The Division continued to provide support to the Panel of Experts, assisting in the preparation of the Panel's final report, submitted to the Committee in December 2021, and its midterm report, submitted to the Committee in July. The Secretariat facilitated travel by Panel members to meet with Member States and other stakeholders, taking into account World Health Organization guidelines, national travel advisories and other COVID-19-related requirements. The Secretariat organized an inter-panel workshop on 6 and 7 December, which included a high-level panel on the women and peace and security agenda and the importance of gender mainstreaming in monitoring groups, teams and panels. An investigative techniques workshop for experts was held on 8 and 9 December.

32. 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). The implementation of the enhanced data model and its supporting application have been completed and the Division is in the process of migrating and verifying data from the sanctions list in all official languages. In May, the Division published a table of updates to the Consolidated List that have been implemented since 2018 onwards.