

**Security Council**

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**Letter dated 17 December 2014 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 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 you could have the present letter and report brought to the attention of the members of the Security Council and issued as a document of the Council.

(Signed) Dina **Kawar**
Chair of the 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 2014.
2. The Bureau of the Committee consisted of Zeid Ra'ad Zeid Al-Husseini and, subsequently, Dina Kaware (Jordan) as Chair and the representatives of Chile and Lithuania 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 operating in the territory of North and South Kivu and Ituri and, by its resolution 1533 (2004), 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 embargo. The sanctions regime was subsequently renewed and amended with the adoption of resolutions 1596 (2005), 1649 (2005), 1698 (2006), 1771 (2007), 1807 (2008), 1857 (2008), 1896 (2009), 1952 (2010), 2021 (2011), 2078 (2012) and 2136 (2014), by which the Council, among other things, imposed targeted travel and financial sanctions on individuals and entities as designated by the Committee.
4. By its resolution 1596 (2005), the Security Council amended and expanded the arms embargo and imposed targeted travel and financial measures on individuals and entities in breach of it. The Council required all States to notify the Committee in advance of supplies of non-lethal military equipment intended solely for humanitarian or protective use and related technical assistance and training, in addition to authorized shipments of arms and related materiel, to the Democratic Republic of the Congo. By paragraph 1 of its resolution 1807 (2008), the Council decided that the measures on arms and technical training no longer applied to the Government of 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.
5. Further background information on the Democratic Republic of the Congo sanctions regime can be found in the previous annual report ([S/2013/747](#)).

III. Summary of the activities of the Committee

6. The Committee met four times in informal consultations, on 17 January, 4 April, 19 June and 17 September, in addition to conducting its work through written procedures.

7. During the informal consultations held on 17 January, the Group of Experts briefed the Committee on the main findings contained in its final report (S/2014/42), after which the Committee considered the Group's recommendations and possible actions in response.

8. At the informal consultations held on 4 April, the Group presented its workplan to the Committee.

9. During the informal consultations held on 19 June, the Group briefed the Committee on the main findings contained in its midterm report (S/2014/428), after which the Committee considered the Group's recommendations and possible actions in response.

10. At the informal consultations held on 17 September, the Committee was briefed by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict and the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict. Both provided information on violations or alleged violations of the sanctions measures and stressed the importance of imposing targeted sanctions against individuals operating in violation of the measures. A press release was issued after the meeting. It was the second time that each of the Special Representatives had briefed the Committee, the former having briefed the Committee on 10 May 2010 and the latter on 5 December 2011.

11. Also during those informal consultations, two representatives of the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo briefed the Committee via videoconference concerning the Mission's sanctions-monitoring mandate and, in particular, weapons tracing and marking, pursuant to a request by the Committee. It was the first time that the Mission had briefed the Committee on the subject.

12. On 23 January, the Chair presented to the Security Council an overview of the Group's final report and a summary of the Committee's discussions on 17 January. On 20 August, the Chair presented to the Council an overview of the Group's midterm report and a summary of the Committee's discussions on 19 June.

13. The Committee received implementation reports from Latvia and Portugal pursuant to paragraph 28 of resolution 2136 (2014). The reports are available from the website of the Committee.

14. The Committee sent 46 communications (29 to Member States and 17 to United Nations, international and regional bodies) with reference to the implementation of the sanctions measures.

IV. Exemptions

15. Exemptions to the arms embargo, assets freeze and travel ban are set out in paragraphs 2 to 5, 10 and 12, respectively, of resolution 1807 (2008).

16. With regard to the arms embargo, pursuant to paragraph 2 of resolution 1807 (2008), the Council decided that the embargo would no longer apply to the supply, sale or transfer of arms and related materiel and the provision of any assistance, advice or training related to military activities to the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, provided that the Committee was notified in advance. The Committee received 11 notifications from Member States supplying military

equipment to the Congolese authorities and dispatched a corresponding number of acknowledgement letters.

17. Pursuant to paragraphs 3 (a) and (b) of resolution 1807 (2008), the Council also decided that no request or notification needed to be submitted to the Committee for supplies of arms intended solely for the support of or use by the United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUC) and protective clothing temporarily exported by United Nations personnel, representatives of the media and humanitarian and development workers and associated personnel, for their personal use only.

18. Pursuant to paragraph 3 (c) of resolution 1807 (2008), the Committee decided that other supplies of non-lethal military equipment intended solely for humanitarian or protective use, and related technical assistance and training, were exempt from the embargo if they were notified in advance to the Committee. The Committee received two notifications in that regard.

19. With regard to the travel ban, pursuant to paragraph 10 of resolution 1807 (2008), the Council provided for exemptions for travel on the ground of humanitarian need, including religious obligations, to further peace and national reconciliation and stability in the region and for the transit of individuals returning to the territory of the State of their nationality or participating in efforts to bring to justice perpetrators of grave violations of human rights or international humanitarian law. The Committee received an exemption request in connection with the travel ban, which was not approved.

20. With regard to the assets freeze, pursuant to paragraphs 12 (a) to (c) of resolution 1807 (2008), the Council provided for exemptions for basic expenses, extraordinary expenses and expenses subject to a judicial, administrative or arbitration lien. The Committee received no exemption requests in that regard.

V. Sanctions list

21. The listing criteria for the Democratic Republic of the Congo sanctions regime are set out in paragraph 4 of resolution 2136 (2014).

22. As regards updates to its sanctions list and new listings, on 30 June the Committee added an entity to the list of individuals and entities subject to the travel ban and assets freeze imposed by paragraphs 13 and 15 of resolution 1596 (2005), as renewed by paragraph 3 of resolution 2136 (2014).

23. The Committee received a delisting request through the focal point for delisting.

VI. Group of Experts

24. On 13 March, following the adoption by the Security Council of resolution 2136 (2014) on 30 January, the Secretary-General appointed six individuals to serve on the Group of Experts, until 1 February 2015, with expertise in arms, armed groups, customs/aviation, finance, natural resources and regional issues (see [S/2014/183](#)).

25. In addition to submitting its midterm and final reports (the latter will be considered by the Committee in January 2015), the Group conveyed an update to the Committee on 14 August pursuant to paragraph 5 of resolution 2136 (2014).

26. In relation to its mandate, the Group conducted multiple visits to the Democratic Republic of the Congo (primarily to Goma, North Kivu) and also visited Australia, Belgium, Burundi, Rwanda, Uganda, the United Arab Emirates, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United Republic of Tanzania and the United States of America.

VII. Secretariat administrative and substantive support

27. 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.

28. The Division also managed the website of the Committee in accordance with the Committee's guidelines, including by updating the sanctions list of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1533 (2004). 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. In addition, the Division created and maintained INTERPOL-United Nations Security Council Special Notices to promote the effective implementation of the sanctions measures.

29. 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.

30. In 2014, the Division continued to provide administrative and substantive support to the Group of Experts, conducting an induction for newly appointed members, in New York, and assisting in the preparation of the Group's interim and final reports, in Goma.

31. 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.
