

**Security Council**

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**Letter dated 15 December 2020 from the Chair of the
Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution
[1988 \(2011\)](#) 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 [1988 \(2011\)](#), containing an account of the Committee's activities from 1 January to 31 December 2020. 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) Dian Triansyah **Djani**
Chair

Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution [1988 \(2011\)](#)



Report of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1988 (2011)

I. Introduction

1. The present report of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1988 (2011) covers the period from 1 January to 31 December 2020.
2. The Bureau of the Committee consisted of Dian Triansyah Djani (Indonesia) as Chair and representatives of the Russian Federation and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines as Vice-Chairs.

II. Background

3. By its resolution 1267 (1999), the Security Council imposed limited air and financial embargoes to compel the Taliban to cease providing sanctuary and training to terrorists, including Usama bin Laden. Between April 2000 and September 2001, the Committee listed 151 individuals and 10 entities associated with the Taliban (including the national airline and the Central Bank of Afghanistan) and 10 individuals associated with Al-Qaida. The Council modified the regime in resolutions 1333 (2000) and 1390 (2002) to impose three targeted measures (an asset freeze, a travel ban and an arms embargo) against individuals and entities associated with the Taliban and Al-Qaida. Exemptions to the asset freeze and travel ban are available.
4. On 17 June 2011, the Council unanimously adopted resolutions 1988 (2011) and 1989 (2011), by which it split the regime in two, establishing one committee for the Taliban and another for Al-Qaida. The sanctions measures against the Taliban and associated individuals, groups, undertakings and entities were imposed in resolution 1988 (2011), followed by resolutions 2082 (2012), 2160 (2014), 2255 (2015), 2501 (2019) and 2557 (2020).
5. By its resolution 2557 (2020), the Security Council renewed the mandate of the Analytical Support and Sanctions Monitoring Team pursuant to resolutions 1526 (2004) and 2253 (2015) concerning Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) (Da'esh), Al-Qaida and the Taliban and associated individuals and entities for a period of 12 months from the date of expiration of the current mandate in December 2020 and requested the Monitoring Team to submit a further annual report to the Council. In its resolution 2557 (2020), the Council also reaffirmed the asset freeze, travel ban and arms embargo on individuals, groups, undertakings and entities associated with the Taliban in constituting a threat to the peace, stability and security of Afghanistan, as designated by the Committee in the sanctions list established pursuant to resolution 1988 (2011).
6. Both the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1988 (2011) and the Committee pursuant to resolutions 1267 (1999), 1989 (2011) and 2253 (2015) concerning ISIL (Da'esh), Al-Qaida and associated individuals, groups, undertakings and entities are supported by the Monitoring Team. The Monitoring Team consisted initially of 8 experts, and the number was increased to 10 experts in resolution 2253 (2015).
7. On 24 August 2017, the President of the Security Council issued a statement (S/PRST/2017/15) concluding that, after having reviewed the implementation of the measures outlined in resolution 2255 (2015), no further adjustments to the measures were necessary, and requesting the Monitoring Team to submit two annual reports, the first one on 30 April 2018.

8. Further background information on the Taliban 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 twice in joint informal consultations with the Committee pursuant to resolutions [1267 \(1999\)](#), [1989 \(2011\)](#) and [2253 \(2015\)](#) concerning ISIL (Da'esh), Al-Qaida and associated individuals, groups, undertakings and entities, on 14 and 24 January, in addition to conducting its work through written procedures.

10. 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 meetings, and in order to ensure the continuity of its work, the members of the Committee agreed, on an exceptional basis, to hold one virtual meeting in the form of a closed videoconference, on 18 May.

11. On 14 September, the Committee held one joint briefing for all Member States via videoconference with the Committee pursuant to resolutions [1267 \(1999\)](#), [1989 \(2011\)](#) and [2253 \(2015\)](#) concerning ISIL (Da'esh), Al-Qaida and associated individuals, groups, undertakings and entities.

12. During the joint informal consultations held on 14 January with the Committee pursuant to resolutions [1267 \(1999\)](#), [1989 \(2011\)](#) and [2253 \(2015\)](#) concerning ISIL (Da'esh), Al-Qaida and associated individuals, groups, undertakings and entities, the Committees heard a briefing by the Monitoring Team on its trip to Kyrgyzstan on 22 and 23 October 2019.

13. During the informal consultations held on 24 January, the Monitoring Team presented a briefing on its trip to Afghanistan from 9 to 22 November 2019.

14. During the closed videoconference held on 18 May, the Committee heard a presentation by the Coordinator of the Analytical Support and Sanctions Monitoring Team on its eleventh report ([S/2020/415](#)), submitted in accordance with the presidential statement ([S/PRST/2017/15](#)), and discussed the recommendation contained therein. The Committee's decision was published on 10 July ([S/2020/687](#)).

15. During the briefing to Member States held via videoconference on 14 September, the Chair, pursuant to paragraph 56 of resolution [2255 \(2015\)](#) and paragraph 46 of resolution [2368 \(2017\)](#), and acting in his capacity as Chair of the Committee and of the Committee pursuant to resolution [1267 \(1999\)](#), [1989 \(2011\)](#) and [2253 \(2015\)](#) concerning ISIL (Da'esh), Al-Qaida and associated individuals, groups, undertakings and entities, held a briefing for Member States with a view to raising awareness of the two sanctions regimes, enhancing transparency and improving the dialogue between the Committees and the broader United Nations membership. The Coordinator of the Monitoring Team and the Ombudsperson also gave briefings to Member States.

16. On 17 December, the Security Council heard a briefing by the Chair of the Committee on the theme "Threats to international peace and security caused by terrorist acts" and on the overall work of the Committee.

17. The Committee provided additional guidance to all Member States by issuing seven notes verbales, dated 31 March, 29 June and 25 September on the travel ban exemption for 11 individuals, and dated 15 April, 1 July, 31 August and 12 October on, respectively, a request to all Member States to put forward candidates for the position of Monitoring Team expert, the recommendation of the eleventh report of the Monitoring Team related to the issue of an emerging methamphetamine industry in

Afghanistan with global markets, the holding of a joint briefing to interested Member States and the extension of the travel ban exemption for three listed individuals.

18. The Committee sent 13 communications to eight Member States and other stakeholders.

IV. Exemptions

19. Exemptions to the asset freeze are contained in paragraphs 1 and 2 of resolution [1452 \(2002\)](#), as amended by resolution [1735 \(2006\)](#), and in paragraphs 17 and 18 of resolution [2255 \(2015\)](#).

20. Exemptions to the travel ban are contained in paragraphs 1 and 2 of resolution [1452 \(2002\)](#), as amended by resolution [1735 \(2006\)](#), and in paragraphs 19 to 22 of resolution [2255 \(2015\)](#).

21. On 8 April 2019, the Committee received and approved one request for a nine-month exemption to the travel ban, which was submitted by a Member State to enable 11 individuals associated with the Taliban to participate in ongoing peace talks. The exemption was in effect from 1 April until 31 December 2019 and was extended by the Committee for 90-day periods on 30 December 2019, 31 March 2020, 29 June 2020 and 25 September 2020 until 26 December 2020, on the same terms as the travel ban exemption initially granted.

22. On 12 October 2020, the Committee decided to grant an exemption to the travel ban imposed by paragraph 1 (b) of resolution [2255 \(2015\)](#) for an additional 3 listed individuals on the same terms as for the above-mentioned 11 individuals for a 90-day period beginning on 12 October 2020 and ending on 10 January 2021.

23. On 23 December 2020, the Committee decided to extend the travel ban and limited asset freeze exemptions for the above-mentioned 14 individuals for a new 90-day period beginning on 26 December 2020 and ending on 26 March 2021.

V. Sanctions list

24. The criteria for the designation of individuals and entities as subject to the travel ban, asset freeze and arms embargo are set out in paragraphs 2 and 3 of resolution [2255 \(2015\)](#). The procedures for requesting listing and delisting are described in the Committee's guidelines for the conduct of its work, and standard forms for listing and delisting are available on the Committee's website.

25. No entries were added to or removed from the list. The Committee made no amendments to existing entries on its sanctions list. As at the end of the reporting period, there were 135 individuals and five entities on the sanctions list of the Committee.

VI. Monitoring Team

26. The Monitoring Team comprises 10 experts with broad experience in international counter-terrorism issues and specific experience in Afghanistan.

27. On 30 April 2020, in accordance with paragraph (a) of the annex to resolution [2501 \(2019\)](#), the Monitoring Team provided its eleventh report concerning the Taliban and other associated individuals and entities constituting a threat to the peace, stability and security of Afghanistan ([S/2020/415](#)), which was transmitted to the Security Council on 19 May and issued as a document of the Council.

28. On 13 December 2019 and 11 June, in accordance with resolutions 2255 (2015) and 2368 (2017), the Monitoring Team submitted its combined biannual travel plans for the Committee and the Committee pursuant to resolutions 1267 (1999), 1989 (2011) and 2253 (2015) concerning ISIL (Da'esh), Al-Qaida and associated individuals, groups, undertakings and entities for the periods from January to June 2020 and from July to December 2020.

29. The Monitoring Team conducted one visit to Afghanistan in February and March, during which it visited the provinces of Badakhshan, Helmand, Kabul, Kandahar, Kunar, Nangarhar and Uruzgan. The Monitoring Team also conducted one visit to Pakistan in March, as well as one visit to Turkey in November.

30. In December, the Monitoring Team held virtual meetings with incoming members of the Security Council in order to raise awareness of the Team's mandate and work.

31. In pursuance of its mandate, the Monitoring Team, through the Secretariat, sent 21 letters to Member States, regional and international organizations, national entities and the Committee.

VII. Secretariat administrative and substantive support

32. 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.

33. 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 virtual meetings held by the Committee, through a variety of platforms.

34. 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 14 December to request the nomination of qualified candidates for the roster of experts. In addition, a note verbale was sent to all Member States on 15 April notifying them of an upcoming vacancy on the Monitoring Team and providing information on recruitment timelines, areas of expertise and pertinent requirements. Also on 15 April, a vacancy announcement was made available online at careers.un.org.

35. The Division continued to provide support to the Monitoring Team, conducting a virtual induction for newly appointed members and assisting in the preparation of the Team's report submitted in April to the Committee. While COVID-19 pandemic restrictions impeded the travel of Team members for much of the year, the Secretariat facilitated travel by Team members to Member States, taking into account World Health Organization guidelines, national travel advisories and other pandemic-related requirements. The Secretariat also organized a remote workshop on investigative techniques, held from 14 to 16 December, which was focused on investigative methods and tools for experts. In addition, the Secretariat organized training sessions for experts on the use of subscription-based analytical products and programmes, as well as databases and other research tools, to facilitate their monitoring and reporting work.

36. 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 ISIL (Da'esh), Al-Qaida and associated individuals, groups, undertakings and entities, as requested by the Council in paragraph 54 of resolution [2368 \(2017\)](#). Since November 2020, the notes verbales notifying Member States about listings on, delistings from and updates to the Consolidated List and the committee-specific sanctions lists have also been made available in Arabic, Chinese and Russian, in addition to English, French and Spanish, in order to facilitate the timely implementation of changes to the relevant lists.
