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Letter dated 15 December 2021 from the Chair of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 2374 (2017) concerning Mali 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 2374 (2017) concerning Mali, containing an account of the Committee's activities from 1 January to 31 December 2021. 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) Juan Ramón de la Fuente Ramírez Chair Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 2374 (2017) concerning Mali



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Report of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 2374 (2017) concerning Mali

[Original: English]

I. Introduction

1. The present report of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 2374 (2017) concerning Mali covers the period from 1 January to 31 December 2021.

2. The Bureau of the Committee consisted of Juan Ramón de la Fuente Ramírez (Mexico) as Chair and a representative of Kenya as Vice-Chair.

II. Background

3. By its resolution 2374 (2017) of 5 September 2017, the Security Council imposed a travel ban and an asset freeze on individuals and entities designated by the Committee in accordance with the listing criteria delineated in paragraph 8 of the resolution. Exemptions to the measures were provided for in the resolution. By the same resolution, the Council established the Committee to oversee the implementation of the sanctions measures and a panel of experts working under the direction of the Committee.

4. Pursuant to resolution 2590 (2021), the mandate of the Panel of Experts on Mali was extended until 30 September 2022. By its resolution 2590 (2021), the Security Council renewed the travel ban and asset freeze until 31 August 2022 on individuals and entities designated by the Committee established pursuant to resolution 2374 (2017).

5. Further background information on the Mali sanctions regime can be found in the previous annual reports of the Committee (S/2017/1126, S/2018/1124/Rev.1, S/2019/968 and S/2020/1222).

III. Summary of the activities of the Committee

6. The Committee met once in informal consultations, on 23 July, in addition to conducting its work through written procedures.

7. In the light of the challenges to the Committee's usual procedures posed by the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, including the limitations on holding in person meetings, and in order to ensure the continuity of its work, the members of the Committee agreed, on an exceptional basis, to hold virtual meetings in the form of closed videoconferences, on 9 February and 5 May.

8. During the closed videoconference held on 9 February, the Committee heard a presentation by the Coordinator of the Panel of Experts on the Panel's midterm report (S/2021/151), submitted in accordance with paragraph 4 of resolution 2541 (2020).

9. Following the closed videoconference held on 9 February, the Committee issued a press release announcing the publication of the midterm report.

10. During the closed videoconference held on 5 May, the Committee met with the representative of Mali and with representatives of the countries of the region, including Algeria, Burkina Faso, Chad, the Gambia, Guinea, Mauritania, Morocco,

the Niger and Senegal, pursuant to paragraph 9 (e) of resolution 2374 (2017) and paragraph 2 (a) (v) of the guidelines of the Committee for the conduct of its work.

11. During the informal consultations held on 23 July, the Committee heard a presentation on the final report of the Panel of Experts (S/2021/714 and S/2021/714/Corr.1), submitted in accordance with paragraph 4 of resolution 2541 (2020).

12. Following the informal consultations held on 23 July, 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 a press release containing a brief summary of the meeting.

13. In accordance with the agreed recommendations contained in the final report of the Panel of Experts, the Committee issued a press release reminding Member States about the travel ban measures and exemptions pursuant to resolution 2374 (2017).

14. On 8 December, pursuant to paragraph 18 of resolution 2374 (2017), the Security Council heard a briefing by the Chair of the Committee on the activities of the Committee (see S/PV.8922).

15. The Committee sent 25 communications to 15 Member States and other stakeholders with reference to the implementation of the sanctions measures.

IV. Exemptions

16. Exemptions to the travel ban are set out in paragraph 2 of resolution 2374 (2017).

17. Exemptions to the asset freeze are set out in paragraphs 5, 6 and 7 of resolution 2374 (2017).

18. No notifications were received by the Committee. The Committee received one travel ban exemption request pursuant to paragraph 2 of resolution 2374 (2017). The Committee rejected the request and reminded the listed individual concerned of the need to comply with the procedure established in paragraph 10 of the guidelines of the Committee for the conduct of its work.

V. Sanctions list

19. The criteria for the designation of individuals and entities subject to the travel ban and asset freeze are set out in paragraph 8 of resolution 2374 (2017). The procedures for listing and delisting are set out in the Committee's guidelines for the conduct of its work.

20. The Committee received three delisting requests, which were not approved.

21. No entries were added to or removed from the list. As at the end of the reporting period, there were eight individuals on the sanctions list of the Committee, with three subject to the travel ban and five subject to both the assets freeze and the travel ban.

VI. Panel of Experts

22. On 26 January, in accordance with paragraph 4 of resolution 2541 (2020), the Panel of Experts provided its midterm report ($\frac{S}{2021}$) to the Committee.

23. On 15 July, in accordance with paragraph 4 of resolution 2541 (2020), the Panel provided its final report (S/2021/714 and S/2021/714/Corr.1) to the Committee.

24. On 15 September, following the adoption by the Security Council of resolution 2590 (2021) on 30 August, the Under-Secretary-General for Political and Peacebuilding Affairs nominated four individuals, with expertise in armed groups, finance, international humanitarian law and regional issues, to serve on the Panel. The mandate of the Panel expires on 30 September 2022.

25. The Panel conducted visits to Belgium, France, Italy, Mali, the Niger, Norway and the United States of America. In Mali, members of the Panel undertook visits to Bamako, Gao, Ménaka and Timbuktu.

26. In pursuance of its mandate, the Panel, through the Secretariat, sent 27 letters to 21 Member States, the Security Council, the Committee and international and national entities.

VII. Secretariat administrative and substantive support

27. 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 3 to 6 December the Secretariat conducted a pilot issues-based training session on the design, implementation, monitoring, evaluation, adjustment and redesign of sanctions for incoming members of the Council.

28. 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.

29. 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 2 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 7 June notifying them of upcoming vacancies on the Panel of Experts and providing information on recruitment timelines, areas of expertise and pertinent requirements. On 2 June, vacancy announcements were also made available online at careers.un.org.

30. 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 July, and its midterm report, submitted to the Committee in January. 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 a workshop on incidents of intimidation and reprisals associated with United Nations cooperation, held on 1 December. In addition, the Secretariat organized training sessions for experts on the use of databases provided through the Dag Hammarskjöld Library, to facilitate their monitoring and reporting work.

31. 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). In December, the Secretariat held informal meetings with relevant stakeholders to present the structure of the new data model for both the Consolidated List and committee-specific sanctions lists before the official roll-out of the new model.