

**Security Council**

Distr.: General
31 December 2024

Original: English

**Letter dated 19 December 2024 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 2024. 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) Michael Imran **Kanu**
Chair

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 2024.
2. The Bureau of the Committee consisted of Michael Imran Kanu (Sierra Leone) as Chair and a representative of Algeria as Vice-Chair.

II. Background

3. By its resolution [1493 \(2003\)](#), the Security Council imposed an arms embargo on all foreign and Congolese armed groups and militias operating in the territory of North Kivu, South Kivu and Ituri and on groups not party to the Comprehensive and All-Inclusive Agreement on the Transition in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. By its resolution [1533 \(2004\)](#), the Council 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 arms embargo. Subsequently, in its resolutions [1596 \(2005\)](#), [1807 \(2008\)](#), [2293 \(2016\)](#), [2641 \(2022\)](#) and [2667 \(2022\)](#), the Council introduced exemptions to and further defined the scope of the arms embargo. Currently, the arms embargo applies only to all non-governmental entities and individuals operating in the territory of the Democratic Republic of the Congo. The arms embargo does not apply to the supply, sale or transfer of arms and related materiel to the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo or to the provision to the Democratic Republic of the Congo of any assistance, advice or training related to military activities.

4. By its resolution [1596 \(2005\)](#), the Security Council imposed targeted travel and financial measures on individuals and entities designated by the Committee as violating the arms embargo. In subsequent resolutions, the Council gradually expanded the criteria upon which an individual or entity may be designated for targeted sanctions to include political and military leaders who impede the disarmament process, use children in armed conflict or target children or women in situations of armed conflict, as well as individuals and entities supporting armed groups or criminal networks involved in destabilizing activities through the illicit exploitation of or trade in natural resources. Most recently, by its resolution [2641 \(2022\)](#), the Council further expanded the sanctions criteria to include individuals and entities as designated by the Committee for involvement in the production, manufacture or use in the Democratic Republic of the Congo of improvised explosive devices, or in the commission, planning, ordering, aiding, abetting or otherwise assistance of attacks in the Democratic Republic of the Congo with improvised explosive devices.

5. The Group of Experts on the Democratic Republic of the Congo initially consisted of four experts, a number that was increased to five experts by the Security Council in its resolution [1596 \(2005\)](#) and again increased to six experts by the Council in its resolution [1952 \(2010\)](#). The Group's mandate was most recently extended by the Council in its resolution [2738 \(2024\)](#) until 1 August 2025.

6. On 19 July 2024, the Security Council adopted resolution [2744 \(2024\)](#), by which it introduced new procedures for the consideration of delisting requests submitted by

individuals, groups, undertakings or entities designated on the list of the Committee established pursuant to resolution [1533 \(2004\)](#) and the lists of other sanctions committees established by the Council, with the exception of the list of the Security Council 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, which remains under the purview of the Office of the Ombudsperson. These procedures replace the delisting procedures outlined in resolution [1730 \(2006\)](#) and will begin to be applied once the appointment by the Secretary-General of the new Focal Point for Delisting becomes effective.

7. Further background information on the Democratic Republic of the Congo sanctions regime can be found in the previous annual reports of the Committee.

III. Summary of the activities of the Committee

8. The Committee met five times in informal consultations, on 24 May, 3 June, 16 September, 7 November and 27 December, in addition to conducting its work through written procedures.

9. In addition, the Committee organized two briefings for Member States, on 19 February and 26 July, to present, respectively, the midterm and final reports of the Group of Experts.

10. During the briefing to Member States held on 19 February, the Coordinator of the Group of Experts provided an overview of the main findings and recommendations contained in the Group's midterm report ([S/2023/990](#)), following which Committee members, regional States and interested States shared their views in connection with the report.

11. During the informal consultations held on 24 May, the Coordinator of the Group of Experts provided an overview of the main findings and recommendations contained in the Group's final report ([S/2024/432](#)), following which Committee members exchanged views with the Group regarding its findings and recommendations.

12. During the informal consultations held on 3 June, the Committee heard briefings by the Executive Secretary of the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region, a representative of the Centre for Responsible Business Conduct at the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development and two representatives of the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, namely the Natural Resources Specialist and the Senior Adviser on Natural Resources in the Office of the Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Protection and Operations.

13. During the briefing to Member States held on 26 July, the Coordinator of the Group of Experts provided an overview of the main findings and recommendations contained in the Group's final report ([S/2024/432](#)), following which Committee members, regional States and interested States shared their views in connection with the report.

14. During the informal consultations held on 16 September, the Committee heard a presentation from the Coordinator of the Group of Experts outlining the Group's workplan for its current mandate ending on 1 August 2025, in pursuance of resolution [2738 \(2024\)](#).

15. During the informal consultations held on 7 November, the Committee received a briefing by the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, on behalf of the Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator, pursuant to paragraph 5 of resolution [2664 \(2022\)](#).

16. During the informal consultations held on 27 December, the Coordinator of the Group of Experts provided an overview of the main findings and recommendations contained in the Group's midterm report (S/2024/969), following which Committee members discussed the findings and recommendations contained therein. The Committee also discussed the visit of the Chair to Angola, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Rwanda and Uganda, which took place in November.

17. Following the informal consultations held on 24 May, 3 June and 16 September, as well as the briefings to Member States on 19 February and 26 July, and in accordance with paragraph 104 of the annex to the note by the President of the Security Council of 30 August 2017 (S/2017/507), the Committee issued five press releases containing brief summaries of the meetings (see SC/15605, SC/15730, SC/15734, SC/15794 and SC/15833).

18. On 29 February, the Committee adopted its Implementation Assistance Notice No. 1 to provide guidance to Member States on the application of the humanitarian exemption established by resolution 2664 (2022) to the asset freeze established under resolution 1596 (2005) concerning the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

19. On 2 and 23 May, respectively, the Committee issued a press release (SC/15689) and a note verbale to all Member States clarifying that the armed and security forces of the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo were exempt from the embargo on the supply of military equipment and assistance.

20. On 17 September, the Committee issued a press release (SC/15822) and a note verbale to all Member States reiterating its condemnation of military support provided to the Mouvement du 23 mars and any other armed group operating in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, as expressed in the Security Council press statement of 5 April (SC/15654).

21. On 30 September, the Chair of the Committee gave a briefing to the Security Council on the work of the Committee, in accordance with paragraph 31 of resolution 2360 (2017) (see S/PV.9737).

22. From 14 to 25 November, the Chair, accompanied by members of the Committee, visited Angola, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Rwanda and Uganda. In the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the Chair's delegation held consultations with representatives of the Government, the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, civil society and internally displaced persons. In Angola, Rwanda and Uganda, the Chair's delegation held consultations with representatives of the Government and other relevant stakeholders.

23. The Committee sent 60 communications to 14 Member States and other stakeholders with reference to the implementation of the sanctions measures, in addition to eight notes verbales to all Member States.

IV. Exemptions

24. Exemptions to the arms embargo are contained in paragraph 3 of resolution 2293 (2016).

25. Exemptions to the travel ban are contained in paragraph 14 of resolution 1596 (2005) and paragraph 3 of resolution 1649 (2005).

26. Exemptions to the asset freeze are contained in paragraph 16 of resolution 1596 (2005).

27. No exemption requests were received by the Committee during the period under review.

V. Sanctions list

28. The criteria for the designation of individuals and entities as subject to the travel ban and asset freeze are set out in paragraph 7 of resolution [2293 \(2016\)](#), as reaffirmed and expanded in paragraph 2 of resolution [2478 \(2019\)](#), and as most recently renewed by the Security Council in its resolution [2738 \(2024\)](#). The procedures for requesting listing and delisting are described in the Committee's guidelines for the conduct of its work.

29. On 20 February, the Committee added six individuals to the list. On the same day, the Committee issued a press release (SC/15597) announcing the addition of the entries to its sanctions list. As at the end of the reporting period, there were 44 individuals and nine entities on the sanctions list of the Committee.

VI. Group of Experts

30. The Committee continued to follow developments concerning the murder in March 2017 of two members of the Group of Experts and held two "informal informals" at the Permanent Mission of Sierra Leone on 6 March and 23 April with the senior official of the United Nations follow-on mechanism assisting the Democratic Republic of the Congo in its national investigation. The follow-on mechanism completed its work on 30 June. Following the termination of the follow-on mechanism, a residual capacity was established for a one-year period to conclude remaining tasks and issues.

31. On 29 April, in accordance with paragraph 6 of resolution [2688 \(2023\)](#), the Group of Experts provided its final report to the Committee, which was transmitted to the Security Council on 31 May and issued as a document of the Council ([S/2024/432](#)).

32. On 16 August, following the adoption by the Security Council of resolution [2738 \(2024\)](#), the Secretary-General appointed five individuals to serve on the Group of Experts, with expertise in armed groups (two experts), arms (one expert), humanitarian affairs (one expert) and natural resources/finance (one expert) ([S/2024/620](#)). The Secretary-General will appoint one additional individual to serve as a natural resources/finance expert on the Group at the earliest opportunity. The mandate of the Group expires on 1 August 2025.

33. On 29 November, in accordance with paragraph 6 of resolution [2738 \(2024\)](#), the Group of Experts provided its midterm report to the Committee, which was transmitted to the Security Council on 29 December and issued as a document of the Council ([S/2024/969](#)).

34. The Group of Experts conducted visits to the Democratic Republic of the Congo (primarily to Beni, Bunia, Bukavu, Goma, Kinshasa and Uvira, as well as the Lubero, Walikale, Masisi and Rutshuru territories). The Group also conducted visits to Angola, Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda and Uganda.

35. In pursuance of its mandate, the Group of Experts, through the Secretariat, sent 38 letters to nine Member States, the Security Council, the Committee and international and national entities.

VII. Secretariat administrative and substantive support

36. 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 6 to 8 December, the Secretariat conducted the fourth training session on the design, implementation, monitoring, evaluation, adjustment and redesign of sanctions for incoming members of the Council. The Division, together with the Department of Peace Operations and the Department of Safety and Security, supported the visit of the Chair and members of the Committee to Angola, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Rwanda and Uganda from 14 to 25 November.

37. To support the Committee in its recruitment of well-qualified experts to serve on sanctions monitoring groups, teams and panels, the Division continued to provide briefings to regional groups and held a public outreach event on 24 October to attract a more geographically diverse applicant pool. On 12 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 3 April, notifying them of upcoming vacancies on the Group of Experts and providing information on recruitment timelines, areas of expertise and pertinent requirements. An additional note verbale was sent to all Member States on 12 August in relation to a reissued vacancy announcement for a natural resources/finance expert on the Group. On 3 April and 10 August, vacancy announcements were also made available online at the United Nations career portal (<https://careers.un.org>).

38. The Division continued to provide support to the Group of Experts, assisting in the preparation of the Group's final report, submitted to the Committee on 29 April, and its midterm report, submitted to the Committee on 29 November. The Secretariat facilitated travel by Group members to securely deliver their mandate, which included meetings with Member States and other stakeholders.

39. 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 Security Council 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 60 of its resolution [2734 \(2024\)](#).

40. Furthermore, the Secretariat supported the issuance, maintenance and deletion of INTERPOL-United Nations Security Council Special Notices, as appropriate, following listings, amendments or deletions of list entries.