

**Security Council**

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Letter dated 9 December 2015 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 2015. 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) Gerard **van Bohemen**
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 2015.
2. The Bureau of the Committee consisted of Jim McLay (New Zealand) as Chair from January to May and Gerard van Bohemen (New Zealand) as Chair thereafter. The representatives of Chile and the Russian Federation served 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. The regime was modified 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. On 17 June 2011, the Council unanimously adopted resolutions 1988 (2011) and 1989 (2011), which split the regime in two, establishing one committee for Al-Qaida and another for the Taliban. The sanctions measures against the Taliban and other individuals and groups associated therewith were imposed by resolution 1988 (2011), followed by resolutions 2082 (2012), 2160 (2014) and 2255 (2015).
4. By its resolution 2255 (2015), adopted on 21 December 2015, the Security Council renewed the mandate of the Analytical Support and Sanctions Monitoring Team established pursuant to resolution 1526 (2004) until December 2019. Furthermore, resolution 2255 (2015) enables the focal point mechanism established pursuant to resolution 1730 (2006) to be applied in the context of requesting exemptions from the asset freeze and the travel ban, and requests the Secretary-General to publish the 1988 Sanctions List in all official languages of the United Nations, as well as in the Dari and Pashtu languages.
5. Further background information on the 1988 Taliban sanctions regime can be found in the previous annual reports of the Committee.

III. Summary of the activities of the Committee

6. The Committee met eight times in informal consultations, on 25 and 26 March, 9 and 15 June, 12 October and 3, 7 and 23 December, in addition to conducting its work through written procedures.
7. The Committee considered one comprehensive report of the Monitoring Team during informal consultations: the sixth report (on 15 June). The Committee agreed to several actions on the basis of the Team's recommendations in the report and issued a position paper (S/2015/676). The Committee also considered five trip reports to Afghanistan and an overview of updated International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL)-United Nations Security Council Special Notices, and

conducted a review of individuals considered reconciled by the Government of Afghanistan, those reportedly deceased and of those entries lacking the identifiers required for the effective implementation of the measures on 9 June.

8. The Committee received briefings from the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Afghanistan and Head of the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan, the head of the High Peace Council of Afghanistan and the National Security Adviser of Afghanistan on the security situation in the country and the prospects for peace.

9. The Committee also received a briefing from Combined Task Force 150 of the Combined Maritime Forces on its actions against narcotics in Afghanistan in order to better understand indirect financing sources for the Taliban and selected listed individuals and entities.

IV. Exemptions

10. Exemptions to the asset freeze are contained in paragraphs 1 and 2 of resolution 1452 (2002), as amended by resolution 1735 (2006).

11. 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).

12. The Committee, in accordance with paragraph 13 of resolution 2160 (2014), considered and granted an exemption from the travel ban for two listed individuals.

V. Sanctions list

13. The criteria for the designation of individuals and entities as subject to the travel ban and asset freeze are set out in paragraphs 2 and 3 of resolution 2255 (2015) and pertain to association with the Taliban in constituting a threat to the peace, stability and security of Afghanistan. The procedures for requesting listing and delisting are described in the Committee's guidelines for the conduct of its work.

14. During the reporting period, two individuals and one entity were added to the sanctions list by the Committee.

15. As at the end of the reporting period, there were 136 individuals and 5 entities on the Committee's sanctions list.

VI. Analytical Support and Sanctions Monitoring Team

16. The Monitoring Team comprises eight experts with expertise in counter-terrorism/threat assessment, transport/customs, the region/Afghanistan and finance. On 13 January, the Team submitted to the Committee, for its approval, its planned travel plan for the period from January to June. On 2 July, in accordance with paragraph (d) of the annex to resolution 2160 (2014), the Monitoring Team submitted to the Committee, for its information, its planned programme of work and travel plan for the period from July to December.

17. On 30 May, in accordance with paragraph (a) of the annex to resolution 2160 (2014), the Monitoring Team submitted its sixth report to the Committee (S/2015/648), providing an update on the threat posed by the Taliban and associated groups to the security of Afghanistan and on the reconciliation process.

18. The Monitoring Team undertook four visits to Afghanistan, visiting Herat, Hilmand, Kandahar, Nangarhar and Badakhshan provinces. The Monitoring Team also visited seven other Member States to discuss with government officials, national experts and representatives of several international organizations the threat posed by Taliban affiliates. It also discussed measures taken by countries to implement resolution 2160 (2014). It travelled to Afghanistan, Bahrain (Combined Maritime Forces headquarters), Germany, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan, the Russian Federation, Tajikistan, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America. The Team was invited by INTERPOL to provide sanctions-specific training to police officers from the countries of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations in Singapore and provided input to the train-the-trainer programme of INTERPOL for the same group of countries, completing the last regional component of this capacity-building project, which began in 2009. The Team attended the eighty-fourth INTERPOL General Assembly, in Rwanda, and the Eleventh Symposium and Exhibition on Machine Readable Travel Documents of the International Civil Aviation Organization, in Canada.

19. In addition to its mandated reports, the Monitoring Team presented key findings in its trip reports to the Committee.

20. In pursuance of its mandate under resolution 2160 (2014), the Monitoring Team, through the Secretariat, sent 62 letters to Member States, the Committee and international and national entities.

VII. Secretariat administrative and substantive support

21. The Security Council Affairs Division provided substantive and procedural support to the Chair and members of the Committee. Advisory support was also provided to Member States to promote understanding of the sanctions regime and facilitate implementation of the sanctions measures. On 1 December, a sanctions workshop was organized for incoming members of the Security Council to familiarize them with the substantive and procedural aspects of chairing a sanctions committee, including interaction with the United Nations system, sanctions experts and other relevant actors.

22. On 14 October, the Division launched a redesigned website for the subsidiary organs of the Security Council. The new website, which is available in the six official languages of the United Nations and accessible to the visually-impaired, features an improved and user-friendly layout. It offers swift and easy access to the current sanctions measures and applicable exemptions, the Consolidated United Nations Security Council Sanctions List and individual committee sanctions lists. Narrative summaries of the reason for listing are displayed in an easy-to-navigate and searchable format. The website also provides clear and practical explanations of the procedures for listing, delisting and exemptions.¹

¹ The website is accessible at www.un.org/sc/suborg/ or from the Security Council's website at www.un.org/en/sc/.

23. On 28 December, the Division made available all the Security Council sanctions lists in the six official languages. This builds upon last year's standardization of the format of all Council sanctions lists and the establishment of the Consolidated United Nations Security Council Sanctions List, in response to resolutions 2083 (2012) and 2161 (2014). In response to a request by the Committee, the Division also provided an unofficial translation of the sanctions list in Dari and Pashto, the two official languages of Afghanistan. In addition, the Division created and maintained INTERPOL-United Nations Security Council Special Notices to promote the effective implementation of the sanctions measures.

24. As part of the Division's effort to recruit well-qualified experts to serve on sanctions monitoring groups, teams and panels, a note verbale was sent to all Member States on 1 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. In addition, the Division sent notes verbales to all Member States notifying them of upcoming vacancies in specific sanctions panels and providing information on recruitment timelines, areas of expertise and pertinent requirements.

25. The Division continued to provide substantive advice and support to the Monitoring Team, conducting an induction for newly appointed members, in New York, and assisting in the preparation of its sixth comprehensive report pursuant to resolution 2160 (2014).

26. From 8 to 11 September, the Division, in cooperation with United Nations system partners, conducted a pilot training workshop on investigative techniques for 12 experts from sanctions monitoring groups, teams and panels. The objective of the training was to equip the participants with an understanding of basic investigative techniques, processes and tools and to strengthen their understanding of the approach to investigations within the framework of the Security Council sanctions regimes.

27. Moreover, to promote greater cooperation among the different expert panels, the Division organized a third annual inter-panel coordination workshop, held in New York on 16 and 17 December. The event was attended by members of all 12 monitoring groups, teams and panels. The workshop afforded sanctions experts the opportunity to discuss strategic and technical issues relating to Security Council sanctions with representatives of the sanctions committees, as well as United Nations system, other international, private sector and non-governmental partners.

28. During the reporting period, the Secretariat established the Inter-Agency Working Group on United Nations Sanctions under the leadership of the Department of Political Affairs. The Working Group brings together 25 United Nations entities to support Security Council sanctions regimes and integrate United Nations sanctions with other peace and security efforts of the United Nations system, as appropriate.